

# Learning delivered with

Text Linked Curriculum



Hillcrest Primary School

# TLC

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12<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## RE: Covid Restrictions UPDATE 2

Despite the initial dip after half-term, positive case numbers have continued to rise this week with an additional member of staff now isolating and 12 positive cases amongst the children, which is an increase on the figure reported last week. There have been new cases this week in Year 1 and Mercury.

However, on the plus side we are still significantly down on the 32 positive cases that we had before half-term.

The jury is still out on whether there will be a return to normal service beyond the end of this initial three-week period. A final decision will be taken on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and communicated with all parents on that day. We want to ensure that we don't see a continued rise in cases throughout the end of this week and start of the next.

With the staff still vulnerable to the worst that the illness can bring, it is still important that we continue to take what steps we can to prevent so many staff contracting Covid that we have to close the school, which remains an option.

Staff are largely keeping themselves to either the main building or the 'i' Building with transfer between the two limited to those members of staff, such as Senior Leaders, who have to move between both buildings. However, two members of the Senior Leadership team are currently isolating after testing positive.

Staff Meetings have also been cancelled or moved online in order to prevent large groups of staff gathering together in the same room for any length of time.

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## Christmas Concerns

It is likely that even if we return to a normal start and end to the school day from 22<sup>nd</sup> November, that we will still have to impose some restrictions within school. Most of these will go unnoticed by the parents but will affect the way in which we manage the children's education and safety around school

We are also reconsidering plans for Christmas in light of the concerns over large groups of adults mixing in school and will communicate these over the next few weeks. We do want to provide the children with the opportunity to experience and perform in Christmas productions this year such as the Nativity and Christmas Church Services, but we do have to perform a Covid risk assessment to allow us to consider the safest way of enabling parents to view these.

We have, however, already taken the decision to cancel the Pantomime visits that were planned for December as there were too many factors that remained out of our control which could have led to us needing to cancel the trips a short notice.

## Notifying About Positive Cases

As and when we get information about positive cases in new classes, we will send a text out to the parents of children in that class requesting that they get their children PCR-tested.

**In this instance, children should remain off school until they have received a NEGATIVE PCR test result.**

However, those children who have previously tested positive for Covid and since returned to school, are NOT required to get a further PCR test in the event that another child in their class tests positive.

## How to Book a PCR Test

Please go to the following website in order to book a PCR Test should you require one

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

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## DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF...

- *...they display a temperature of 37.6 degrees or higher;*
- *...they have a persistent cough (regardless of whether you believe this to be caused by something else);*
- *---they complain of a sudden and extreme loss of taste or smell.*

Many thanks for your cooperation at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Try