



30.11.21

Dear parent/ carer,

RE: COVID19 update

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for your ongoing support. The pandemic that we have faced together has been a marathon rather than a sprint, and 18 months on we are grateful to be back to face to face learning with enrichment opportunities once again running. This return to 'normal' is partly made possible by the continued compliance and diligence of staff, pupils and their families, so thank you for playing your part in keeping schools a safe learning environment for all.

The threat of Covid19 sadly remains very real, and so it is vital that we continue to follow guidance to protect each other. The risk level remains high, and with the emergence of a new variant it is vital that we all continue to play our part to protect the whole community. As of Wednesday December 1st 2021 Welsh Government is reinstating the use of face coverings indoors for all staff and pupils unless medically exempt. There are various measures in place in schools that significantly reduce the risk of spreading the virus, including one way systems, seating plans, regular hand washing and wearing face coverings in areas where social distancing is not possible. Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) is also an effective way for us to protect ourselves and the community from Coronavirus. Pupils in all year groups have been invited to sign up for LFT(Lateral Flow Testing) kits, pupils are advised to test on a Wednesday and a Sunday in the evening. Your results should please be reported to the NHS as detailed in the testing kit instructions, and any positive results also need to be reported directly to the school by telephoning us or emailing lsadler@milfordhavenschool.co.uk.

If you have not yet registered your child for LFT kits you can still do so by completing the following form: <https://forms.gle/wFvuk7Jbf8ZqzdsM6>

Recently the Welsh Government updated their advice and guidance to learners in secondary schools and colleges who are under 18 and have a household member who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is now recommended that in addition to PCR tests on Day 2 and Day 8, pupils should undertake daily lateral flow everyday for seven days if someone within your household has tested positive for Covid19. This should start on the day a household contact is confirmed positive from a lateral flow or PCR test result. Full details of the most up to date guidance from the Welsh Government can be found via the following link: <https://bit.ly/3d1a47Q>

If your child displays any symptoms of Covid19 you should book a PCR test, your child should then isolate till you receive the results. If you receive a negative result your child can return to school as normal, however if the result is positive your child should continue to self isolate for the period advised.

Since the start of this academic year we have consistently been experiencing higher than normal levels of pupil and staff absence. We are doing all we can to deliver high quality face to face learning for all, however it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain the cover for absent staff. With other schools in the same or similar situation as us, and with all schools trying to access the same limited pool of local supply teachers, we face the possibility of not being able to source the cover staff needed to continue to deliver face to face learning for all. For the safeguarding of our young people, it could become unsafe for us to have all pupils on site without an adequate number of teaching staff to supervise children and deliver lessons. Should staffing become a concern we may face the difficult decision to instruct a year group to temporarily remain at home and not attend school site, but please note that this decision would not be taken lightly and we are currently doing all we can to avoid having to implement this measure. If it is the case that any year group temporarily needs to remain at home and not attend school site for a short period of time, this will be communicated to parents and carers via our usual channels.

Please can we at this time ask that all parents and carers ensure that they have provided us with up to date contact information, and wherever possible please ensure that you have downloaded the SIMS app and regularly check our website and social media pages for updates. It is also vital that pupils bring a face covering to school every day to support the safety measures implemented by Welsh Government, as of 1.12.21 all pupils and staff are required to wear face coverings indoors unless medically exempt. All pupils were issued a reusable face covering at the start of this term and so should be equipped to follow the new measures. As always our team will be working hard to keep our whole school community well informed of any new information and guidance as and when that may occur, but this can only be done effectively if we have current contact information for all families.

Please contact us if you have any questions or queries, we are here to help. We very much hope that if we continue to work together we can end this half term as positively as it started, and all enjoy a safe and relaxing Christmas break.

Diolch yn fawr.

Ms CA Morris
Headteacher