Harewood C of E Primary School

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"Educating for Life In All Its Fullness"

Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope everyone has had a restful Christmas break and has had the chance to do many of the things you have wanted to do.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday at the usual time. As yet I have had no updated guidance for Primary Schools from the DfE or Leeds. Cases of COVID in the Harewood area are currently 1323 per 100,000 people, which is the highest I have seen and is higher than the Leeds levels (1273 per 100,000) which are also at higher levels than at any point last year. This would suggest that we need to be cautious and be vigilant for cases in the next few weeks at least.

Although currently children in primary schools are not being routinely tested, I would like to suggest that if you have access to home Lateral Flow Tests, and are willing to do so, that you test your children prior to the return on Tuesday. This would really help us to know that we are not mixing positive cases of COVID from the start of term.

In school, the following protective measures will be in place for the return on Tuesday.

- All staff will have taken LFT tests.
- Staff will be wearing face coverings when not teaching lessons and will be social distancing from each other when in school.
- The children will be required to wash hands regularly.
- Classrooms will be kept well ventilated.
- Visitors entering the school grounds including contractors and parents will be required to wear face coverings unless exempt.
- We will continue to minimize visitors into school.
- Anyone showing symptoms in school will be required to self-isolate and take a PCR test.
- Anyone identified as a close contact of a positive case is currently required to take daily LFT tests but not required to isolate if they are under 18 years old or have had at least 2 doses of vaccine.

All of these protective measures are in place to try to avoid disruption to the children's learning or their access to in-school learning. I would like to thank everyone for your continued support in our efforts to keep the children in school as long as possible and minimize risks and disruption.

Thank you and see you all on Tuesday.

Mr Ratcliffe











