4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope you have all had a good Christmas and New Year break. We are all looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school tomorrow. I am aware that some of you may be worried about the current rates of Covid and what you might have heard on the news. I want to reassure you that we were doing and will continue to do our utmost to keep all our pupils as safe as possible and in school as much as possible.

Our risk assessment had not changed much since last year:

* While we do not have ‘bubbles’ as such each class is trying to minimise contact with other classes to reduce the risk of transmission.
* Classes are eating their lunch in classrooms or with only one other class in the hall.
* Playtimes and breaks outside are with only one other class.
* Staff and visitors wear masks in all communal areas and corridors. Mask wearing in classrooms is possible but only if this does not negatively impact on pupil communication.
* Assemblies and whole school events are still virtual.

We also have a very high rate of staff vaccinations with around 95% having had 2 vaccinations and the majority having had their booster if they are eligible. Our secondary pupils were also brave and almost half of these have had their vaccinations as well.

All staff will complete at least 2 lateral flow tests a week and I thank all the parents of our secondary pupils who also test their children at home twice a week. I would like to encourage all parents to test their child before they come back to school if at all possible.

Finally you will have heard on the news about staff absences due to the high rates of covid. This is unfortunately inevitable however we will do our utmost to cover these absences and to keep all our pupils in school. We will only move to part time attendance or remote learning as a very last resort. Sadly I cannot say it won’t be needed, if this is the case we will inform you as soon as possible and it will be for the shortest time possible.

I can say that currently we do have a few staff absences however all the pupils are able to attend school and these absences can be covered.

Please support the school in keeping everyone safe by continuing to test (if you can) and do not send your child to school if they have any of the 3 main Covid symptoms. It is important that you let school know as soon as possible if your child tests positive or is identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for Covid. You can do this by emailing [covid@lancasterian.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:covid@lancasterian.manchester.sch.uk).

Take care



Alison Randall

Headteacher