

Principal's Message - Week Ending 18 09 20

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID-19 update

At the time of writing, we do not have a reported positive case of COVID-19 of either a pupil or a member of staff at the school. If we become aware of a positive case, Government guidance tells us to immediately contact the local Public Health Team, who will advise us about what to do next. We will use ParentMail to provide information to parents and carers and during the school day we will also brief any pupils who would need to be briefed (for example, all pupils in a class or in a year group 'bubble'). Most of the Government COVID-19 scenarios recently provided to schools include specific advice to us about remote learning and we are using that advice to prepare for remote learning should it become necessary.

'New normal' thank you!

Despite the new routines and expectations, it has been really heart-warming to see our pupils and staff doing their very best to get on with the business of learning and teaching! This is a testament to everyone's positive attitude and their resilience and we could not be more pleased with how term has started. I have thanked all staff for this; please pass on my heart-felt thanks to your child(ren).

Plans to increase cycle storage capacity within school

More pupils are cycling to and from school than ever before, which is really pleasing but this increase, alongside our designating of specific cycle storage areas for specific year groups due to COVID-19, has created cycle storage issues, the most acute of which is the current Year 8 area because it is located outside the school wall/fence. We intend to increase our capacity with storage racks for an additional 240 cycles over the course of the next few weeks. Crucially, this increase in capacity is intended to provide Year 8 pupils with a facility inside the school fence/wall. Doing all of this should allow the cycle racks that are outside the wall/fence to be used once again only where individual pupils choose to.

Wet weather breaks

We have been fortunate that the weather has been dry and warm since we returned to school. It means that pupils have been comfortable when using their year group zones at Break and Lunchtime and the school is always cleaner when the weather is dry. Because of COVID-19, there are no designated social zones inside buildings, for obvious reasons, but this makes the risk of very wet weather a potential problem for the school. We are currently finalising our wet weather plans (which will include areas inside school buildings) but it will be very helpful if pupils have a

waterproof coat and/or an umbrella that they could use, for example, on days when it is just 'spitting'.

Wishing all families a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson

Principal