

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we reach the end of the first half term I wanted to write and thank you for your on-going support during what has been the most unusual start to a school year I have ever experienced.

I have continued to be overwhelmed by the positive attitude and behaviour I have seen from our pupils. No one enjoys wearing masks or repeatedly using hand sanitiser but the pupils have accepted these rules, alongside all the other rules in school - they have also worked with us to try and minimise the spread of the virus.

During this half term we have had 17 cases in school, 14 of these were pupils, and this week alone we have seen 6 cases - in Years 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13. All bar one case (two weeks ago) have been isolated cases, and were as a result of infection outside school. We feel the measures in school are allowing us to minimise the numbers affected. So I would like to reiterate my thanks to you and your children for everything they are doing to follow the guidelines.

During the half term break, if your child does test positive for the virus please email school reception, but in addition work with track and trace to identify close contacts. School staff are taking a break for the holiday so we may not reply to you until later in the half term week.

When we return after half term, all pupils should be wearing full school uniform. This means summer shirts are no longer acceptable: All pupils should be wearing a shirt and tie. In addition could I remind you of some of the uniform rules, as we have seen a small number of pupils arrive incorrectly dressed in recent days, and will be checking carefully after the break. Please remember:

- Trousers and skirts should be grey, not black.
- Girls should not wear leggings under skirts or as an alternative to trousers. Black tights are acceptable.
- Nose piercings are not allowed in school, even when hidden under a mask!
- Earrings are limited to one small stud per ear.
- Make up should be minimal and natural looking, no false lashes.
- Nail varnish and acrylic nails are not allowed in school and should be removed in time for the start of the new half term.
- Shoes should be plain black and leather.

Finally I would like to remind you that a coat is becoming increasingly important, particularly as the weather deteriorates. We are trying to maximise fresh air in the building and time spent outside, so keeping warm and dry is even more important than usual. When breaks and lunchtimes are very wet pupils will be able to stay inside the building.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a restful and healthy half term. Please take the time to recuperate following a long half term and have a good rest.

As ever if you have any queries or concerns do not hesitate to get in touch.

Take care,
Yours faithfully,

Jo Griffiths

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