



The Withens
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Headteacher: Mrs A Curran

Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a very good half term break despite the wet weather. It is great to see all the children back today.

As you will be aware, Covid regulations changed during the half term break. In terms of school, we will start to reinstate some of our whole school mixing such as our Y6 Prefects running their Council Crews and inviting you in as parents for Crew assemblies as they are scheduled.

We will also no longer require you to use the one-way system for pick up time – however, this does improve the congestion at the small entrance on The Withens, so those of you who are willing and able to continue to keep the one-way system going, please do so. Pick up times will remain as they are currently as this aids congestion - and remember you can pick up your youngest child at the time of your eldest child to save you waiting in school.

Self-isolating

Although it no longer mandatory to self-isolate, the United Kingdom Health Security Authority (UKHSA) is clear that we must all now work with Covid using 'personal responsibility'.

The guidance to self-isolate has not stopped. It still exists but is no longer a legal requirement.

In schools, this means that children who have symptoms of Covid19 (this has included headache and sickness in our children) will still be asked to get a PCR test and isolate until the result comes back. In this way, we can all take personal responsibility. If children are sent into school with Covid symptoms and pass this onto to staff, we will be in the situation where classes or even school may have to close, and we wish to avoid this to ensure we can provide seamless education as well as keeping more vulnerable people safe.

Please see the highlighted guidance from the UKHSA:

Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting."

"Children and young people who usually attend an education or childcare setting and who live with someone who has COVID-19 should continue to attend the setting as normal."

You have all been utterly brilliant throughout the past two academic years, being patient and kind to us all in school. As we learn to live with Covid and transition from the legal requirements to personal responsibility, we will need to continue to work together to keep your children, staff in school and your own families well.

Thank you for all your ongoing support and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call us on 0151 4778020.

Kind regards
Andrea Curran