

Gawthorpe Lane
Ossett
West Yorkshire
WF5 9BS

Acting Headteacher:
Mrs R Thompson



Date: 26th February 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We would like to add further clarification to the changes school will be making from the 8th of March.

We have a multi-layered approach to our Covid Risk Assessment.

The difference to pupils from removing the bubbles will be very small. There will be no wider mixing for pupils. They will remain being taught largely within their class group and in some instances a mix of the two classes from a year group.

There is enhanced cleaning in place across school throughout the day as well as additional hand washing and hand sanitiser points.

All staff wear masks in communal areas and pupils who wish to do so as well, and can manage this independently, can also wear masks in communal spaces. If your child wishes to wear a mask in lessons, then this is also ok.

Procedures we put in place to stagger breaks and create safer lunchtimes remain in place. This means groups of pupils will not cross paths, pupils have allocated places to sit in at lunchtime within their own year group and tables and chairs are cleaned down after each sitting.

Windows are open through the day in all spaces to support good ventilation and if a space will be used by various groups tables, chairs and high touch points will be cleaned in between classes and resources rotated so they are not used consecutively.

In classes pupils sit on their own tables (as is our standard practice) and these are facing forwards. Pupils also have their own pencil cases and resources.

An additional protective factors in school, since January, is that staff now undertake lateral flow testing twice weekly.

We will be offering lateral flow testing to any students who are able to safely administer the test themselves. The Local Public Health team are also looking into rapid home testing kits which would allow us to send testing kits home to families who wish to support their children with this. These are currently not available to us. Of course, we fully understand that for many of our students this may present a number of difficulties or anxieties and there is no expectation for them to do the tests, we merely wish to ensure we have offered it to those who wish to have it. We have prepared a range of social stories to support pupils and parents regarding the LTF which can be found on our website from next week.



Tel: 01924 264240 Email: admin@highfield.wakefield.sch.uk Web: www.highfield-school.co.uk

We are currently in the process of updating our Covid risk assessment which will then be shared on the school website next week. We are doing this in consultation with staff to ensure the finer details have all been looked into as it has been revised a number of times since last Summer, due to a number of factors such as changes infection rates and in response to the government announcements during the pandemic along with changes to the guidance.

From our experience of having to run our own track and trace within school, when there has been a positive case, we have not always had to shut a whole bubble as on many occasions staff and pupils have not been a close contact. For those teachers who work across year groups due to their specialist subject we have had discussions around the ability to social distance and limit close contact during lessons. We therefore will not be closing the whole school should we have a confirmed case but will contact those who have had close contact to self-isolate as per the government guidance.

We are also aware that some of our students are themselves CEV and those who are CEV have been advised to continue to shield until March 31st. We will be in contact with parents directly over next week and please be reassured that those students who are CEV will not be expected to return on 8th March of March if parents/carers elect to keep their child at home until March 31st or the date when the government states that those with CEV no longer have to shield. For those pupils we will continue to offer remote and virtual learning.

Due to the breadth of learning needs within our school pupils will have different experiences in their school day and we would be happy to discuss individual pupil needs with parents to talk through their timetable.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

SLT Team

