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St. Andrew's C.P. School



Kirk Ella

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had the opportunity to rest and celebrate this Christmas. The news of the second vaccine being passed for use is great news, but as we all know we are facing a challenging time in the next month. We are told that the new variant of the virus is more easily transmitted than the original and the danger of a case in school resulting in a Bubble being sent home is increased. I ask therefore that we are all extra vigilant.

I know there has been a lot in the news about the possible impact of the New Covid strain on schools with discussions about opening and closing.

The East Riding LA has been reviewing the situation thoroughly and has communicated the following:

*"The East Riding has one of the lowest incidences of Coronavirus, being in the bottom quartile of all councils nationally, 281 of 345. From this most up to date Coronavirus incidence data and our local public health intelligence, there is no current compelling evidence to suggest that East Riding schools need to deviate from the national direction of primary, special schools and The Hub School reopening from tomorrow, and secondary schools commencing a phased return. We know staff and parents are concerned about the re-opening of schools and wanted to share this information to offer reassurance of the local picture and help you with any discussions.*

*We are aware that over time this situation is likely to change. The safe systems of working you all have in place, together with our local response protocol and incidence management system, will ensure we continue to work together to minimise the impact of CoVid-19 on our pupils and staff. We would however like to reassure you that we are constantly watching the situation as it is developing."*

Through working together we can keep our children, our staff and our community as safe as it is possible to do. We have done this since March 2020 and will continue to do so in the weeks ahead.

Arrangements stay the same as before and if anyone in a household is displaying symptoms and/or waiting the results of a Covid test, pupils MUST NOT COME TO SCHOOL.

The most common incidence of the virus would appear to be amongst our pupils' older siblings and there is a particular need to be particularly vigilant with them, though the mass testing of secondary pupils should help, the compliance of secondary aged pupils to the Tier 3 rules over the next two weeks is going to be critical.

It is important that parents keep socially distanced when picking up and maintain distance. Please can you also ensure your children are kept near you while waiting as we are trying to preserve class bubbles as much as possible.

It is also important that parents and carers keep to guidelines about who their children can meet with outside of school.

I think the advice that we "presume everyone we meet could be Covid positive" is worth keeping in our minds and we should remember this when waiting to come onto the school site.

I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday morning.

Kind Regards,

Mr Church

