



West Moors Middle School

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7<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of last half term, Mrs Watkins shared an overview of your child's curriculum topics for Autumn 2. We hope that this information has been helpful and we are looking forward to our parents and carers' consultation meetings with teachers to discuss your child's learning and development since the start of term on 30.11.2021 and 01.12.2021 from 15.45-18.45. In the meantime, if you have any questions and/ or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We are currently experiencing a number of Covid cases across the school, including a members of our staff team who will be absent for several more days. This has resulted in the need to draw on support from supply teachers known to the school, as we are grateful to them for their continued help.

Our aim is to keep the school running as close to normal as possible for the benefit of all of our children therefore we are keen to ensure we do as much as we can to protect our school community.

We recognise that this goes beyond some of the current government guidance, and is at the discretion of parents and carers to choose to follow, but is our attempt to manage the outbreak and protect the day-to-day running of the school for the staff and the pupils.

Scenario	Next Steps
<p>Child shows symptoms (Government guidance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)</li><li>• a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)</li><li>• a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Child undertakes a PCR test and stays away from school until results are received.</li><li>2. Siblings, as they will be a close contact, should also be tested and await results before returning.</li><li>3. If not all children receive a positive result, the siblings with negative results may return to school if parents wish, <b>but in line with the Government's guidance, school will not be able to issue unauthorised absences for families that choose to keep siblings in isolation.</b></li></ol> <p><b>A lateral flow test should NOT be used if a child has symptoms</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test">https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test</a></p>



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Someone in the household receives a positive PCR	1. Whole household undertakes a PCR test and stays away from school until results are received.
Child is a close contact of someone outside of their household who has had a positive PCR.	1. Close contact undertakes a PCR test and stays away from school until results are received. 2. Siblings do not need to be tested and may still attend school.

Current advice also states that there is no public health benefit to testing primary-aged children using lateral flow devices and these should not be used as a proxy for wellness. However, we are aware that lateral flow tests have picked up some positive cases in asymptomatic cases within the school community. In this situation, if you have chosen to carry out Lateral Flow Tests at home and you receive a positive result **this must be followed up with a PCR at the earliest opportunity** and the framework above applied.

All schools submit daily attendance registers to the Department for Education (DfE) and closely monitor the threshold of 10% of children and staff who mix closely testing positive for COVID-19 within a 10-day period. The DfE have given the following advice:

- Ensure good ventilation
- Improve the ventilation when doing activities indoors such as singing, PE
- Reduce crowding - consider suspending assemblies
- Consider moving activities outside
- Enhanced cleaning protocol

These are measures we already have in place. Therefore, given the size of our school and the significant impact staff absences have on our ability to maintain our normal teaching programme, we are seeking your support in the implementation of the above framework. We will review this framework on a monthly basis, reporting to Governors and I will continue to keep you up to date with any developments across the school.

Lastly, I would like to invite your child to represent our school, wearing his/ her full school uniform, at the annual Remembrance Parade in West Moors on Remembrance Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to pay respect to the fallen from all wars. We will meet the children at Station Road car park at 10.20 a.m. and the parade will leave Riverside Road at 10.30 a.m. on that morning with the service starting at 10.45 a.m. at the West Moors Celtic cross war memorial, which stands in the centre of the village on the Petwyn. A consent form will be sent home with children tomorrow for parents/ carers to sign and return if they are happy for their children to attend this special event with me.

Best regards and stay well,



Dr D Craddock  
Head Teacher