

14th September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

As we embark on our second week back, it has been wonderful to see the school full again with children, happy and smiling, glad to see their teachers and friends and getting back on with their learning.

The arrangements we have put in place to keep us all as safe as possible appear to be working but are of course under constant review. The updated version of our school's Covid-19 risk assessment will be uploaded for parents/ carers to view on our school's website tomorrow. I am pleased to report that our children have shown good sense and followed the guidelines well but we are in for the long haul and any systems we have in place are only as good as the way we all continue to adhere to them.

If we have any reports of confirmed cases of COVID in school we will liaise immediately with Public Health England and follow their guidance. This may have to include full or partial closure of the school. If a group of pupils or indeed the whole school is asked to self-isolate, work will be set via our new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). All Year groups are being inducted into how to use this in the coming week. The advice remains that if any member of the school community shows any signs of COVID they must stay away from school and get a test as soon as possible. Please also keep us updated of any confirmed cases in your household. Equally, I am concerned to maintain a calm approach to these matters by all. Please do not spread rumours about who might or might not be infected. If there is information we need to share, please be assured that we will do so.

Some reminders:

- Please continue to remind your child about the need for good hand hygiene - regular washing of hands or using sanitiser. Hand sanitiser is available but we would also be grateful if you could encourage your child to bring his/ her own small bottle of sanitiser in school as well.
- Please continue to ensure that if your child is in KS3, he/ she has a face covering to use when in corridors where social distancing is not possible, unless your child is in the exempt category detailed in the Government's guidance.
- If your child uses a disposable mask, please ensure he/ she has a spare as the ear loops can often break.
- We encourage children in KS3 to wear his/ her mask / face covering on the bus and sit in the allocated area of the bus if directed by the driver to do so.

- Please do not stop on the zig zag lines or yellow lines at either entrance to the school as I want to ensure we keep all children safe. Please can I ask that you continue to get your child to school in good time and use neighbouring side roads to drop him/ her off to avoid congestion and enable social distancing at the entrances.

Extra-curricular activities

Thank you to all parents/ carers who returned the extra-curricular form for clubs at school. As a gentle reminder, a hard copy of this letter has been sent home to all parents/ carers this afternoon and we would be grateful if these could be completed and returned to year group tutors tomorrow morning. In line with our risk assessment, these will be delivered in year group hubs of no more than fifteen children. In addition, our peripatetic music lessons will recommence in the near future- more details to follow.

Evening meetings with parents/ carers

For the moment, we will have to cancel evening meetings in school such as the meet the Tutor evenings, concerts and PTFA committee meetings. However, we are looking at ways of replacing these events with alternative formats so that you do not miss out on these key school community activities. Virtual meetings will be used via Microsoft Teams, where possible, along with pre-recorded events that will be shared via our school's website.

Keeping you updated

I know that parents/ carers appreciated my regular updates throughout the summer term. I will continue to send these this term, in addition to launching weekly newsletters. If you do not already do so, please also follow us on Twitter @west_moors –This Twitter feed is linked to our school's website and is where we actively share short snippets of good news as well as any emergency notices or arrangements.

Wishing all members of the West Moors Middle School community and their families well.



Dr Deborah Craddock

Headteacher