

1st November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reducing COVID-19 transmission in schools and colleges

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our school. As you know it is important to **reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our pupil's education and also to keep our families safe**. Unfortunately, rates of infection among children and young people in Bedford Borough have increased to very high levels, so we have now been advised to put in place the following additional measures:

- Mask wearing for all staff and safeguarding visitors, in all communal areas outside the classroom.
- Mask wearing for pupils in Year 7 and above in all communal areas outside the classroom.
- All pupils who use school and public transport are asked to wear a mask where possible.
- LFD Testing for 7 days for pupils, in Year 3 and above, when somebody else in the home has tested positive.
- Pupils in Year 1 or 2 should continue to follow national guidance and take a PCR test if they have someone in the house who has tested positive for Covid-19.
- We are reducing our indoor gatherings and mixing across departments. At present, this will include measures such as virtual assemblies, staggered lunch and break times, limited trips and virtual meetings with parents/carers. This will be reviewed week on week depending on our school risk assessment, but it may be necessary to keep these measures in place until the end of term or even return to full bubble teaching.

Please continue to help us keep all our staff, pupils, and families safe by following this advice:

- **Stay at home and book a PCR test** if anyone in your home has symptoms
- **Wear masks in crowded places**
- Pupils in years 7 and above must continue with routine, **twice weekly lateral flow testing on a Monday and Thursday** morning before school and the results must be logged on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

Please can we ask that **any pupils aged 12 and over who have not have their COVID-19 vaccination book an appointment** at a local catch-up clinic, or at a large vaccination centre. You can do this online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-1st-or-2nd-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

Yours sincerely

C Thomas

Mrs Thomas

Deputy Head & Safeguarding Lead