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Dear Parents/Carers,

Durham schools have been asked to review their risk assessments and covid measures and consider whether they need to adapt or add to these as Winter approaches and we are seeing more covid cases within our local community. With that in mind, I would like to share with you our current measures which will be in place until further notice. Most of these were already in place since September but we have added one or two aspects, such as the return to wearing of face masks.

- Wherever possible, classes will stay separate. This definitely happens for lessons and they also sit separately in the dining hall at lunchtimes.
- Some of our small mixed groups will still go ahead (ie Phonics groups and other Interventions) as well as mixed after school groups such as Irish Dancing. We will continue to monitor the situation and may make changes to this if needed.
- On the yard at break and lunch-times, year groups do mix with one other year group; for example, Year 3 and 4 are together on one yard. However, they are outside and there is plenty of space. For indoor breaks, pupils stay in their usual classrooms with no mixing.
- We are only having one 'face to face' Assembly each week. This is our Golden Assembly on a Friday and is split into two Assemblies - Nursery, Reception and KS1 at 2.15pm and KS2 at 2.45pm. This means there is plenty of space in the hall and we leave a gap between classes. Our other Assemblies are virtual, shown on the screen in classrooms.
- We will go ahead with the visits and visitors we have already planned but will not book any more for this half term. This will be reviewed in January. All visitors to school are asked to wear masks.
- Staff will return to wearing masks again when moving around the school and overseeing drop off and collection points. We would encourage parents/carers to also wear masks again on the yards/in busy areas.



*The contents of this letter are confidential and are intended solely for the addressee.*

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- When visiting the school office, we will ask all parents/carers to wear masks please.
- Year 5 pupils will now be collected at the same door they come into school on a morning. This will reduce numbers and congestion on the yard. We would ask Year 5 parents/carers to space out as best they can within this courtyard area.
- At the end of the school day, parents/carers and their children must leave the yard immediately. A reminder also that the KS2 Timber Trail must not be used at any time before and after the school day. It is out of use anyway during the Winter months as is dangerous to use when damp and icy.
- We are planning our Christmas Shows with the intention that these can go ahead. The way we have organised these however will make it easy to share them with parents/carers via videos if nearer the time we feel it is unwise to bring a large audience into the school. If the shows do go ahead, we may need to run them on additional dates to reduce audience numbers and it is likely that all audience members would need to wear a mask.
- We will have our separate class Christmas parties in the hall as usual. We will not have a Christmas Disco though.
- Staff are continuing to carry our regular lateral flow tests and we would ask our families to do the same. Let us know if you are unsure about how to get a supply of these.
- Parents/Carers should follow the following Public Health guidance where there is a positive case within the home/family:
  - PCR testing for all adults and pupils if they are a close contact of a positive case in their household
  - Daily Lateral Flow Testing for 7 days at home for any adult or secondary age pupil or primary key stage 2 pupil who is a household contact of a positive case and is exempt from isolation and continues to attend school. Testing should start from the day the household member has symptoms or if they don't have symptoms from when they tested positive

I hope you can see that we are trying to keep things as normal as possible for our children, whilst adding in a number of measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 as much as we can. Please get in touch with us if you feel there are any areas we haven't covered or you have any questions or concerns.

Best Wishes,  
Mrs Lavelle  
Headteacher



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