



Hellifield Community Primary School
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A member of The Ribblesdale Federation of Schools – Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:14)

1 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back after a damp and autumnal half term holiday! We have a number of updates to share with you as we head back to school.

Covid-19

NYCC have issued a letter (attached) detailing the worrying rise in cases across our region and the measures in place to keep our children safe during this time. Alongside the guidance given, our schools will also ensure the following:

- Suspension of planned cross-federation events and trips this half term.
- Sit children in class groups with distance between these during assembly and lunchtime, with good ventilation in the hall.
- Open evenings for new parents to revert to appointment only, to minimise numbers of visitors in school at any one time.
- Nativity performances to be school members only.
- If cases reach the threshold of 5 positives in any one school, a return to staggered breaks and lunchtimes and separate assemblies will occur and adults will wear masks in communal areas.

If you have positive cases at home

Advice from DfE is as follows:

“Parents should make alternative arrangements wherever possible to ensure that their child can continue to attend their education setting. Where they cannot do so, education settings and local authorities may help families to agree alternative travel arrangements which mean that a pupil or student who is not required to self-isolate is able to continue to attend. As usual, school leaders have discretion to grant leaves of absence in exceptional circumstances. If this leave of absence is granted, the education setting should provide remote education to the affected pupil or student. Where a school is not satisfied with the reason given for the absence, they may record this using the unauthorised absence codes in line with the school attendance guidance.”

In addition: If a household contact is in isolation because they have tested positive for COVID then it is strongly advised for the child to take a PCR test. If the test is positive they should isolate at home for 10 full days. If the test is negative they can continue attending school; however, if they develop symptoms at any point they should isolate and take another PCR test.

Nativity performances

It is disappointing that, for the second year running, we cannot invite parents and carers to watch the children perform in their Nativities. We would like to record these and make them available for parents to watch at home. To do this we need full consent for all participating children to have their recording shared with our families only (and not to be published online). A separate consent letter will be shared.

Celebration assemblies

We hold a celebration assembly each Friday morning and I would like to invite parents to view these virtually via Zoom. Each week a link will be sent for you to participate with the school name and time of the assembly. Please ensure your microphones are on mute and remember that, if your camera is on, you and your surroundings will be visible to all the children. I do hope you can join us!

Wellies

We would like our Long Preston and Hellifield children to wear their wellies to school and bring a pair of school shoes or indoor pumps to wear inside. We can then allow children who have wellies to access the fields and new play equipment at playtimes. Please ensure wellies are clearly named.

Should you have any questions in relation to this letter, please get in touch via the school office.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'T. Ward'.

Miss T Ward