



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

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Chair of Governors: Mr R Dickinson

7 January 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers



Review of the 1st week back and plans for maintaining continuity of education

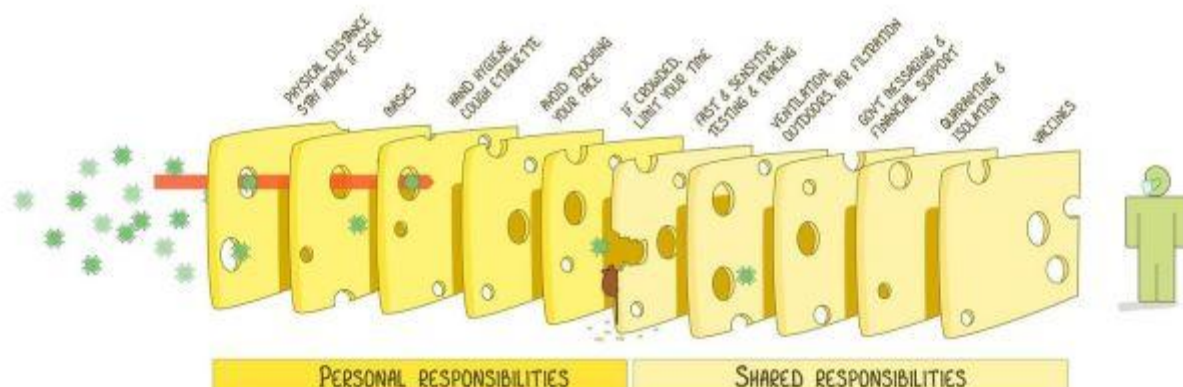
As you know, the country is currently going through a spike in Covid infection rates. At a Public Health England briefing for Headteachers yesterday, it was emphasised that the Omicron variant is far more transmissible than previous variants. In the week after Christmas, cases in the East Riding doubled and, during the holiday period, there were approximately 30 of our pupils who tested positive. With the potential for increasingly high rates of infection we need to be prepared to react to outbreaks in our school and community which may challenge our operational capacity.

The start of the new school year has been very smooth so far. We currently have 2 staff off with Covid and up to 10 children self-isolating and accessing work on Google Classrooms. From the national and regional data available, there is a risk that this may increase significantly over the next few weeks.

As advised by the Local Authority, the Department for Education and Public Health England, we will continue to operate as far as possible as normal. We will continue to do all we can to maintain face-to-face teaching by maintaining our safe systems of work – including enhanced ventilation, enhanced cleaning, good hand hygiene, masks for staff while moving etc. as per the 'Swiss Cheese model'.

THE SWISS CHEESE RESPIRATORY VIRUS PANDEMIC DEFENCE

RECOGNISING THAT NO SINGLE INTERVENTION IS PERFECT AT PREVENTING SPREAD



EACH INTERVENTION (LAYER) HAS IMPERFECTIONS (HOLES).
(MULTIPLE LAYERS IMPROVE SUCCESS.)

THE 11 THINGS
VIRUSDEFENCEHEDGE.COM
WITH THANKS TO JESS LAMOND, VIKTORIA HEDDER & THE LHM OF DLS
BASED ON THE SWISS CHEESE MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION, BY SWISS T. REASON, 1990
VERSION 3.0
UPDATE: 24/01/2022

As in the Autumn term, if there are outbreaks in specific classes/ year groups, then we will put in place temporary enhanced measures for the specific year group including: staggered use of cloakrooms, further enhanced cleaning and physical separation at play and lunchtimes.

We have a great team of staff, covering all aspects of our operation, who have demonstrated immense adaptability and commitment over the past two years to ensure continuity of high quality education and care and we will continue to do so. We will also continue to make use of the teacher supply service as required - although this will be contingent on their own capacity to meet our requests.

Nonetheless, it is prudent to plan for the eventuality that we may have too many staff off at any one time to be able to maintain face-to-face teaching across the school. As part of that planning process, the school admin team have been updating our list of parents whose work is critical to the Covid-19 response. We sincerely hope that we do not have to revert to remote education but there is a possibility that we may have to, even if only for certain year groups and even if for a brief period of time.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will take advice from the DfE, Public Health England and the Local Authority and act accordingly.

As always, thank you for your support - we will continue to keep you informed of any changes to our operating procedures.

Please take care everyone and keep safe: together we will get through this.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher