



High Peak Federation



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Wednesday 17th November 2021

COVID CONTROL MEASURES UPDATE

Dear Parents / Carers,

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your support over these difficult few weeks and especially to those in Mersey who took their children for a PCR test last week. We wanted to give you an update as to how we are getting on and also pass on further advice that we have received.

This additional control in Mersey identified a further **4** positive cases, all of which were asymptomatic. This has proved to be a very important measure, as it has helped identify children who would most likely have infected others – thus helping in our efforts to stop the outbreak.

School is liaising with Public Health England, as well as the Local Health Protection Team, every few days and we are taking advice and guidance from them to ensure we keep our children, staff, families and the wider community safe.

It has been brought to our attention that there are also pockets of outbreaks all around our community at the moment, including local community sports clubs and after school care. It is therefore vital that we act on all the advice given from the PHE and do our bit to keep us all safe – if your child accesses such similar community provision, be aware that transmission risk is higher, and any symptoms need acting upon.

We have been given some additional advice today – for any child who requires a PCR test, this should now extend to all siblings and family members/identified contacts. A family can be tested all at the same time, whether it be from a home test, or at a test site. Please support us by following this extra measure with immediate effect. Home kits can be requested from school if anyone is unable to get to a test site.

Please can we ask that every child still tests daily with the LFT until further notice and ensures the test is checked after **30 minutes**, before they come to school. It has come to our attention that some positive lines are appearing after quite some time on the tests and after children have already been dropped off. The LFTs are an additional measure to help us identify **asymptomatic** cases. There are so many symptoms for Covid in children that at the moment, we need to assume almost anything could mean a positive test. We are getting reports (as is the case Nationally) of negative LFTs with positive PCRs and negative PCRs with positive LFTs – which could be as a result of there being variants of Covid. We need to keep double testing on most occasions. Remember, any classic symptoms (a new cough, temperature



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or loss of taste) must be followed up with a PCR, **even if you have a negative LFT**. Again, we have had recent cases of negative LFTs stopping parents from getting PCRs, when children had symptoms. The PCR tests have subsequently been positive. Remember – SYMPTOMS = PCT test.

School is acting solely on the guidance given by the Government, PHE and Local Health Protection team and will continue to follow their advice to the letter. We need ALL our parents, carers and the community to help us too. Please be mindful that when school asks you to carry out the guidance we have to follow, the messages we give can't change - as we are putting in place what we have been told to do so, to keep everyone safer. We know this has been a very difficult time for many of you, however we thank you all for supporting us and helping us through these last few weeks.

We have now managed to get some further supplies of the LFTs, so please ring school if you are struggling to obtain tests. As mentioned before, we also have supplies of the home kits for those unable to get to a PCR test site (the results do take a little longer to come back).

Again, thank you for all your support and help in this current situation - hopefully, we can turn a corner soon and can all get back to some normality.

Mr Parry and the Thornsett Team

