

6th November, 2020

Dear Families,

Covid-19 Update & Temporary Changes to School Routine from Monday 9th November

I wanted to thank everyone across the school community – students, staff, parents and families– for the ways in which they have taken on board the changes we made over the Summer so that the school could safely re-open for the new academic year way back in September.

Each day it is an absolute pleasure to see our students enjoying their learning, engaging with their teachers and friends and building on what they learnt at home during the Spring and Summer terms.

As you will know, the North West is currently coping with a higher number of Covid cases than many other parts of the country. As of last night, the entire country has been placed into another lockdown which we hope will be lifted early in December. Within the school community, we have a number of students and staff who have contracted the virus outside of school or are currently self-isolating at home as a precaution because they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

There is no evidence that anyone has caught the virus at school and, whenever a case has emerged, we have been following Public Health England's (PHE) direct advice and guidance.

The number of positive cases occurring within our community and the number of staff needing to self-isolate and work from home has grown this week and continues to rise. We have therefore taken the decision, with the direction of PHE and guidance from the Local Authority, to alter our school routine and attendance until case numbers return to more manageable levels. This is not a decision we have taken lightly nor one that we wish to keep in place for longer than the bare minimum.

Therefore, from Monday 9th November, we will be operating a reduced school week for Years 7-10 which affects this week only in the first instance.

So to be absolutely clear, we are asking one year group per day to work from home for next week only.

Year 11s are expected in school each day (unless they have been advised to isolate)

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Harrop Fold School

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

The days are:

Monday 9th November	- Year 9 not in school
Tuesday 10th November	- Year 8 not in school
Wednesday 11th November	- Year 9 not in school
Thursday 12th November	- Year 7 not in school
Friday 13th November	- Year 10 not in school

We will set work via Class Charts which will be a reflection of the broad and balanced curriculum they would usually receive whilst on site. I am grateful to parents for your ongoing support in ensuring your child engages with this learning.

We will continue to monitor the situation but expect all year groups to return as normal on Monday 16th November. However, should we still be in a situation where staffing levels in the school are problematic we will continue to rota between Years 7 – 10 so that not one year group is disadvantaged overall compared to others.

Thank you for your co-operation as we introduce these temporary changes. Despite Covid-19, the new academic year at Harrop Fold has begun very well and we are determined not to allow the pace and energy of the school to be disrupted by these temporary alterations.

Yours faithfully

Claire Coy
Principal

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