



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly thank you so much for the support you have given us in getting your children back into school safely. We have been pleased with the way that the vast majority of students are social distancing, managing using masks, handwashing and sanitising carefully, and navigating their way around school within their bubbles. It has been wonderful to walk around the school visiting lessons and seeing students learning once more.

The national message around the increase in Covid cases once more is a clear one and this was forecast to happen. This has resulted in the recent announcements by the government around no groups of more than six people from different families being able to congregate either inside or outside at any one time. You may be aware that some schools in the local area have already had to undergo “local lockdowns” or the sending home of a year group bubble for two weeks under the direction of Local Authority sections of Public Health England.

We do therefore need your help to remind the students that they must wear their masks in a sensible way on buses for the whole journey, which is a requirement from Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset Local Authorities which run these services, along with the parent-organised buses from South Bristol. There are also a few students who are forgetting their masks which we are asking to be worn for a very short period of time during the school day as they move about in our corridors which, due to the age of our buildings, are narrow compared to modern builds.

With the potential for a year group or a larger cohort of the school being asked to remain at home for two weeks at any time, we have planning in place that we wanted to share around how we would manage such situations.

- In the event of a year or small group lockdown, students would continue to be taught as per their timetable, with lessons accessed remotely via Microsoft Teams. If we have several year groups in isolation, this model would shift somewhat with a “two lesson series”. In this circumstance, students would have work assignments set via Teams and would be expected to complete this independently in the first lesson and with the class teacher being present in the second lesson to work through materials and check content.
- If we move to the next level of partial closure with more students being absent, students would be brought into school and taught their timetables on a rotational basis to reduce the number of young people on the site. The “two lesson series” highlighted above would be put in place for all students working remotely.

We have considered how we could maximise learning and guidance within a lesson on the Microsoft Teams platform, so whilst teacher modelling and direction would occur for part of the time, parents and carers should be aware that for a phase in the lesson teachers may have their cameras off and students may be working on their own, on a task.

We very much hope we are able to keep as many students on site for as long as possible; however you will understand that along with many other schools we have needed to put these plans in place for all eventualities.

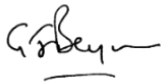
Our site is wonderful on a warm sunny day, such as we are currently experiencing, however with only one year group being able to access our school hall we are lacking covered locations away from classrooms. I wanted to let you know that we are looking at potentially accessing some temporary covered areas or marquee style tentage so that all students that wish can be accommodated inside these along with providing suitable seating and tables.

Can I respectfully raise the issue of parking close to the site, particularly at the end of the school day. We have had numerous comments around people not parking in a courteous way and we need to be aware of our neighbours who are supporters of the school. Really importantly at this time of day, we have students coming out of school mixing with cars which could lead to accidents happening; can I ask people to be mindful of this. It is perhaps a good idea to arrange a pick-up location not far from school or at the rugby club, following their generous offer to use their space for this.

A reminder to everyone that we have an **Inset Day** on **Friday 25th September** where the staff will be working hard on the continued provision for learning at this time, including making sure we are ready to be able to utilise Microsoft Teams should the need arise.

With many thanks for all of the support you are giving us at this moment in time.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher