



Tuesday 16thth February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all for your support throughout this pandemic, I hope you can enjoy some time outdoors now the weather has turned a bit nicer. Our goal has always been to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all pupils and their families, which has meant having a very bespoke offer - every family is different in terms of its needs and in its assessment of risk.

As you know, the government have said that schools will not return fully before 8th March but we believe that, for some families, increasing or reintroducing days in school after half term will help with the gradual move back into full time education in school. This has been arranged for families who have indicated that this is what they would like. Please contact your teacher early next week if you would like to have some/more days in school after half term.

With increased numbers on the school site, we will continue to monitor how well we are able to maintain bubbles, social distancing and hand and respiratory hygiene and adjust our risk assessment accordingly. We will continue with our twice weekly lateral flow testing regime for staff which helps us identify any positive asymptomatic cases. This will be necessary, despite a good proportion of our staff having had their first Covid-19 vaccine.

This information was posted on the DCC website last Thursday:

Devon has the lowest case rates of all upper tier council authorities in the country, with six of the county's eight District areas among those with fewest cases of coronavirus. While that is good news, Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon, says it is too soon for celebration.

"Case numbers are continuing to fall in most parts of Devon, and that's because people in the main are adhering to the national restrictions. We are seeing a slight increase in cases in Mid Devon, although case numbers there are still low – and far lower than the national average. But those Mid Devon numbers should be a reminder to show how easily cases can go up quickly as well as go down."

Case rates are currently highest for those aged 20 to 39, but are falling in all age groups, and most rapidly in those aged 80 and over. Many of Devon's cases are in the working age population, and outbreaks in workplaces are still occurring, says Steve Brown.

"Please don't be complacent or drop your guard, either in the workplace or indeed travelling to or from work."

I hope this offers some reassurance for those of you who may still be anxious about sending your children back to school. The numbers are indeed dropping almost daily and our testing hasn't picked up a single positive case which is great news.

As we have all the way through the pandemic, we will treat everyone individually and listen to your particular set of circumstances and concerns. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss things further with me.

Kind regards

S A Pickering