



The William Henry Smith School

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: COVID-19 measures in schools

I hope you and your families are well. With changes to national guidance taking effect from Thursday 27th January, we're writing to update you on what this means for COVID measures for families. We know it's been a difficult time for many parents & carers since the start of term. Today, there are more than 180 COVID-19 outbreaks in Calderdale schools and early years' settings. This is more than at any other time in the pandemic. We understand the impact this must be having on our families, with many children in Calderdale catching COVID-19 in recent weeks and sometimes not for the first time.

Nationally and locally, we are now in a 'living with COVID' phase of the pandemic. Living with COVID doesn't mean ignoring it, and the pandemic is certainly not over. We encourage you to continue doing all you can to keep your child and family as safe as you have done throughout the pandemic. In particular, it is important to remember that:

- Anyone with any of the three main COVID symptoms (temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in sense or taste or smell) should have a PCR test. Do not rely on the results of a lateral flow test, as these don't always pick up infection.
- Anyone aged 5+ who has been in contact with someone with COVID-19 should take lateral flow tests for 7 days. If they themselves have recently had COVID-19, we advise that they wait for 28 days from the initial positive test before starting lateral flow tests again. They should though have a PCR test if they develop new symptoms.

If there is an outbreak of COVID-19 in a learning group or house we will continue to contact you to advise that your child could have been a contact.

Once again, we'd like to take the opportunity to thank you for all you are doing to support us by testing your children in line with national guidance and keeping them at home if they have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.

Kind regards

Sue Ackroyd
Principal

The William Henry Smith School, Boothroyd Lane, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 3JW
Email: general@whsschool.org.uk | Tel: 01484 710123 | Fax: 01484 721658 | Principal: Sue Ackroyd M.Ed., NPQSH
Registered Charity: 529132

