

Whitehill Junior School

Head Teacher: Mr S Mills



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Dear Parents and Carers

Looking at our attendance figures this morning, it is clear there has been an increase in general absence across the school as well as a slight increase in the number of positive Covid cases being reported.

I am monitoring all absences carefully, looking for patterns and potential links. We have removed the majority of restrictions outlined in our outbreak management plan at present and I feel this has been the right decision in terms of pupils' general well-being and mental health. That being said, I reserve the right to implement class or whole school bubbles again should I feel it would have a positive impact on reducing the number of Covid cases.

There is no doubt that nothing beats face to face teaching in terms of pupils' learning. I would therefore urge everyone to be in school wherever possible; there will be times when we don't feel 100% but can still come to school. Of course, should a pupil be told they have to isolate, then we can't have them in school.

Access to a virtual classroom will only be provided to pupils who have been told to isolate as per the remote provision guidelines. Teachers are not required, nor expected to facilitate learning for pupils who are off because they are poorly. These pupils need to rest and recover as quickly as possible so they can be back in school at the earliest possible opportunity.

It is clear that Covid has not gone away and with the relaxation (removal) of all national restrictions, different families must deal with the ongoing situation as they see fit. I long for the time when I can count absences on a single hand again.

Thank you for your ongoing support and please do keep the office informed should your child not be in school, at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

Steve Mills
Headteacher

