

Ref: RV/hw

20 October 2020

Dear Parent

As we near the end of our first half-term after our post-lockdown return to school, I am writing to express my gratitude to you our parents, our pupils and our incredibly resilient staff. We should be proud of the way our community has returned and how we are meeting the ongoing challenges of the coronavirus pandemic. I would like to thank you for your ongoing patience and support. It has been wonderful to have the children back in school learning again. As you will be aware we have had numbers of children at home self-isolating for periods of time. We have learned a great deal and are continually trying to develop and improve our new ways of working; particularly in securing a high quality learning experience at home. Please see the attached information regarding **Home Learning**.

Over the last few weeks, the number of staff who have either tested positive or were required to self-isolate has risen. I am pleased that we have been able to keep the school fully open so far. However, if greater numbers of staff are affected, we may need to implement a rota system or have year groups educated at home. Plans are in place for this eventuality but we do hope that this won't be necessary and that we will be able to continue with the full opening of school.

Reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 during half-term

In order to effectively track and trace pupils who may have been in contact with other pupils who may have contracted COVID-19, I ask that if your child gets a positive test result over the half-term, you email head@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk to inform the school of this case.

Prior authorisation to allow your pupil to leave school

Thanks to the vast majority of parents who have completed our Prior Authorisation form. In order to allow us to effectively send close contact pupils home in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school we ask that you complete the parental authorisation form if you have not already done so. (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xfsmUvH8MU6AWufP-sj0KkCOMGSD6P9GicDzeGBcfHNUOUhUR01YWJITjQ0UudVVTZZMUVHMO1NQi4u>)

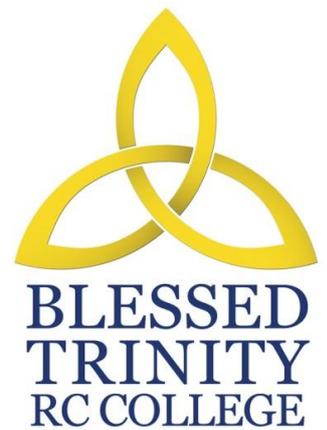
School Transport

The county council is urging pupils aged 11 and over to wear face coverings on school buses, throughout the journey, to help prevent the spread of coronavirus and keep children in school. It is the law now for everyone aged 11 and over to wear face coverings on public buses and is currently advisory on school buses. However, following reports that many high school aged children are not following the advice, Lancashire County Council is stressing the importance of wearing a covering on all forms of public transport including school buses.

As well as asking parents to encourage their children to wear face coverings on school transport, they can also help reduce transmission of the virus by:

- Providing hand sanitiser for their child to use on boarding and after getting off the bus.
- If they pay bus fare in cash, having the right coins to minimise the need to handle change.
- Reminding their child to keep a safe distance where possible.
- Avoiding mixing between households indoors and keep outdoor mixing as low as possible.
- Only using public transport for essential journeys like school, work and health appointments and trying where possible to stay and shop locally.

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It is estimated that around half of pupils live within two miles of their school and, where they can, families are being asked to arrange for pupils to walk or cycle.

The current Switch to Cycling campaign is looking to build on an increase in people cycling during lockdown with lots of helpful information and advice for anyone thinking of cycling.

For help and advice on preventing the spread of coronavirus, visit:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/your-health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus/>

For more information on walking and cycling and the Switch to Cycling campaign visit:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/active-travel/>

If we send your child home to self-isolate and this is towards the end of the school day, we unfortunately will not be able to allow them to travel home on the school bus.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Richard Varey
Headteacher

REMEMBER – SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (CORONAVIRUS-19) are recent onset of any of the following:

- A new continuous cough
- A high temperature (fever)
- A loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Any one of the above symptoms gives reason for high level of suspicion for CORONAVIRUS-19.

A well person or child: feels 100% well, seems themselves and not displaying any changes in behaviour or their daily routines.

An unwell person or child could be a possible case of CORONAVIRUS-19.

A combination of symptoms below gives reason for high level of suspicion for CORONAVIRUS-19.

- Vomiting/nausea/off their food, diarrhoea, sleeping more than usual, complaining of not feeling themselves, listless/restless/agitated, shortness of breath, feeling cold, headache, severe body aches, sore throat/congested or runny nose - anything that is not feeling themselves.
- For fevers, the NHS advice is to look for a high temperature – ‘this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back; you do not need to measure your temperature’.