

Friday 25th March 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update – Covid-19

I wanted to write out to you with a brief update on the current situation in our Tadcaster schools over the recent period.

Unfortunately, the positive caseload with regard Covid-19 has been increasing significantly in our student and staff population over the past two weeks. This is a generalised issue across England, North Yorkshire and indeed the Selby area, as you may be aware.

Associated with this, our schools are experiencing significant pressures on staffing through Covid-related absence. Staffing absence has been as marked as 30% on some days which places huge strain with no area-wide supply available and only emergency internal options at times. In every case however, we will always strive to provide for educational continuity with pupil and staff wellbeing, health and welfare our utmost concern. However, without a doubt schools are having to implement cover options which they would not ordinarily wish to deploy.

I consider it is only appropriate to share this concern with you even though we hope it will ease very soon. However there may be cases where we need to consider contingency planning if staffing is simply not available to safely operate our schools. In all instances, our schools continue to follow Government guidance and are working closely with Public Health NYCC to ensure that we are doing everything we can to keep our case numbers and risk of transmission low in schools.

We would ask that every family continues to play their part with absolute vigilance for Covid symptoms and strongly urge testing where you have any concern and then self-isolation to follow. Only by working in partnership in this way can we protect everyone's safety and wellbeing and also protect students and staff against any vulnerability to serious illness and ultimately of course, maintain onsite education in our schools.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Yapp

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What to do if your child has symptoms/tests positive - Government Guidance [CLICK HERE](#)

The Government guidance states the following:

The main symptoms of COVID-19 are a recent onset of any of the following:

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

If your child has any of these symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result. Other symptoms linked with COVID-19 include shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, sore throat, headache, stuffy or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. (Any of these symptoms may also have another cause.)

"Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting."

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