

5th July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Once again, a big thank you for supporting the school over the last 24 hours. Yesterday was not the easiest of Sundays as you will imagine!

I am writing to confirm arrangements, as things stand at 3pm on 5th July, for the remainder of the week.

I, first of all, want to reassure you regarding the extent of Covid-19 cases at Forge Valley. Last week the school had a small number of Y10 pupils with a positive Lateral Flow Test (LFT). This along with two confirmed cases in Y10 earlier in the week prompted me to air on the side of caution and move Y10 onto remote learning last Friday. No Y10 pupil over the weekend has had a positive PCR. As of yesterday morning, Y10 were going to return to school today. During the weekend, a very small number of Y9 pupils tested positive using LFT. This resulted in me collapsing, along with 9SB who were already self-isolating, 9IR and 9LB. I can confirm that pupils in 9MG no longer need to self-isolate due to a confirming negative PCR test. Pupils in forms 9IR, 9SB and 9LB need to self-isolate until we have confirmed PCR test results. The only two other forms needing to self-isolate due to positive LFTs are 7JJ and 8RBL. Along with a staff member with a confirmed PCR test, cases are extremely small.

I am being told by parents that several pupils who should be self-isolating are not doing so. Where I am informed of this, I have the moral duty to report the names of these pupils to the police.

The emerging issue we faced as a school on Sunday was the increasing numbers of staff being told to self-isolate by the NHS "Track and Trace" app. This totalled 25 members of staff by yesterday evening. I believe this relates to the one member of staff who tested positive. It appears that staff working in the next classroom to this teacher were picked up by the app.

It is my intention to keep Year 9, 10 and 12 on remote learning for the remainder of the week. Year 7 and 8 should attend school apart from those bubbles self-isolating. Again these are 7JJ and 8RBL. Remote lessons will be delivered live using Microsoft Teams and where this is not possible staff will set remote work on the school website. Lessons will last 50 minutes to allow pupils some time away from screens.

The school has been in touch with keyworker families offering places for their children. If you are a critical worker and you have no other alternative childcare arrangements in place, please contact the school and we will consider offering a school place for your child. This is applicable if your child is not needing to isolate.

More than ever, I hope that children continue to lateral flow test and let the school know ASAP of any positive results.

As always, thank you to you all and feel free to contact me should you have any questions on dbarrowclough@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Barrowclough
Headteacher

