



Ripley Cluster Information – COVID Update October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

October 22nd 2021

As we move into October half term we would all like to thank you for your ongoing support at all our schools over the last seven weeks as we have attempted more “normal” routines with COVID restrictions lifting. It has been great to be able to get back to school life much more as it was pre-COVID times!

That said, and we are sure you have heard it in the news this week, COVID has not gone away and we as schools, communities and indeed as a country are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring we do all we can to prevent the spread of the virus to ensure we avoid further lockdowns and mass disruptions to life as we have experienced in the previous 19 months.

Cases in Derbyshire are quite high and rising, 47% of which are within the pre-19 age range, so schools have been contacted by Public Health England with a list of precautions that they **need** to follow and some that **MAY** become possible should cases continue arise in the weeks to come.

What we have continued to do since September and will continue to do:

- Hand washing / sanitising on arrival at school, break times, lunch times, toilet visits, before and after eating, before going home
- Regular cleaning of surfaces, particularly those frequently touched for examples shared equipment, door handles, desk tops etc
- Maintaining good ventilation – opening windows and doors and / or using mechanical ventilation systems, all of which reduce the amount of viral particles circulating in rooms and communal areas
- Adults social distancing or wearing face coverings where this is not possible
- Adults carrying out LFTs twice weekly to identify asymptomatic cases
- Minimising non-essential visitors onto the school sites

Future consideration may have to be:

- Reintroduction of staggered start and finish times
- Returning to class bubbles
- Reintroduction of staggered breaks and lunch times
- Reducing times during the school day where the children gather in large groups e.g. worship/assemblies

As we move towards Christmas we really want the end of the year to as special and successful as possible, particularly after how difficult last Christmas was, therefore we must take every measure to keep us all safe and well. We decided that a Cluster approach was the best way to continue to do this to keep everything straight forward and keep our community safe.

Thank you for your continued support as we continue to strive for “normal” times.

Stay safe.

Kind regards

Wendy Rose, Jen Clarke, Amanda Joynes, Paula Doleman and Cathy Bednal (Head's of St John's, Ripley Juniors, Lons Infants, Ripley Infants and Ripley Nursery School)

