



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this finds you all rested after the half term break, with your child or children ready to start again in the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to the large number of parents and carers who took the time out of very busy schedules and lives to send us messages of thanks and well wishes. To know we have your support has meant a lot to staff.

I will write to you in more detail as we head into this half term and keep you updated on forthcoming events such as our virtual Remembrance service. However, I wanted to write to you as promptly as possible given the Prime Minister's latest announcement of a second national lockdown from Thursday 5th November, as well as the local impact of Covid on schools in Shrewsbury.

Before half term we were able to maintain a full teaching timetable without the closure of any year group bubbles. Sustaining this going forward will remain our utmost priority, but only in relation to the safety of staff and students. As the incidence rate of Covid increases, locally this will begin to impact on the school community. We are retaining our year group zones, as well as all of the thorough measures in place in relation to cleanliness, hygiene and the adaptations made to classrooms and teaching. In addition, we have added the extra layer of safety with students now wearing face masks in indoor communal areas. Should there be an instance where a Covid case or cases means we have to ask a year group or bubble to self-isolate, this will be, carried out in conjunction with local public health and the Department for Education. They have been fully involved with all of our measures so far. If, following their advice and reviewing our own ability to maintain safe staffing levels, I will contact parents as soon as reasonably possible.

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers who approached school with queries and questions in relation to my correspondence around Covid cases, in a positive and constructive manner. This is an important dialogue and I would like to encourage parents to continue to raise these with us, as I completely understand the uncertainties we find ourselves in. It was disappointing to learn that there was a query or complaint raised with the local public health office which was largely based on rumours and hearsay, rather than being raised with us, in the first instance. This has been resolved and public health confirmed to me, at the end of last week, that they are happy with the processes and decisions we made.

With the advent of another national lockdown Mr Johnson made it clear that schools will remain open and we will endeavour to do so, with as many year groups as possible with us at any one time, for as long as we can. The Department for Education website promises further guidance will be, issued today. Once we have looked at it and if it contains significant changes, I will communicate this to you in a timely fashion. In the event that we do have to go to a reduced timetable, we have spent considerable time looking at our contingency planning and what remote learning would look like compared to earlier this year. This is summarised in our Remote Learning Policy, which can be found in the Policies section of the school website for you to read. Show My Homework will remain the main platform for resource uploading, this will be complimented by a range of activities, including some use of Teams where this is felt appropriate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Pope". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Mrs A Pope
Headteacher