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Dear parent / carer,

I just wanted to write to update you on the current COVID situation in school, particularly in readiness for the government's move to 'Plan A' from tomorrow. It continues to be an incredibly challenging situation and COVID is still very much present within the community. We have a significant number of staff who are currently self-isolating which means that pupils are not always having their usual teachers however we are managing to keep disruption to learning at a minimum for now. There are also pupils still regularly testing positive in each year group; fortunately the majority of these cases are being picked up in advance using LFD tests. It is vital that these are still carried out and we have recently provided the students with more test kits. Testing twice-weekly at home (in the evening or before leaving the house in the morning) and then following the self-isolation guidance before returning to school is the most effective way to minimise transmission in school at the moment.

In school we are continuing to keep rooms well-ventilated and have enhanced cleaning procedures in place. Pupils are also still encouraged to maintain social-distancing and to sanitise regularly. You will be aware that the government has withdrawn the requirement to wear face-coverings in school from tomorrow. We will therefore no longer be enforcing this measure however there is clearly a shift towards people taking more responsibility for how they approach this. Pupils and staff may therefore still choose to continue wearing face-coverings, particularly in communal areas – I know that many are planning to do so. Please be aware that, if cases increase, we may have to reintroduce face-coverings as an additional measure.

Please rest assured that the staff here are working incredibly hard to keep the school operational and to minimise disruption. I am extremely grateful to them; their dedication and commitment is second-to-none and I am seeing staff going beyond their usual roles every day. I'd also like to thank you once again for your support; please continue to reiterate the measures with your children and ensure they are testing at home.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams