



21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Brief Update 2 – COVID 19

Following our update earlier in the week sharing the news of our first positive COVID diagnosis of a staff member for some time, you will be aware from texts shared that two further staff diagnoses followed on subsequent days. It never rains.....!

While national headlines are focussed upon the improving rates of infection and relaxing restrictions, the experience at Haytor View this week has been very different. Throughout the pandemic so far we have never seen the impact upon staffing that has occurred this week. I am sure that you will joining me in thanking the staff team who have supported your child's time in school over the past few days in such challenging circumstances. With few supply staff available the team have pulled together brilliantly to ensure that provision is still what we'd wish it to be for your children. Unfortunately this position has been worsened by the arrival of a stomach bug which has also impacted upon school and kitchen staffing.

Throughout the past two years you have supported us hugely as we have sought to take account of the position nationally but most importantly of the local picture and that of our school community. As we continue to do this, and with hope that we can quickly move on from the patterns of infection and absence seen this week, we would **ask that you continue to be vigilant around your children's health, using lateral flow tests as a guide to your child's position and your own comfort at home**. Your support, which we recognise and are grateful for, will enable us to continue to bring the provision we want to your children over the coming weeks.

While there are no 'numbers' available detailing such localised positions, we are aware that many schools in the area are seeing high numbers of children, and consequently adults testing positive for COVID-19. So let's take care. At the same time **we must remember that for the vast majority this infection does not bring significant consequences** - though we recognise the resultant self-isolation can bring challenges to all.

The appearance of a winter stomach-bug has also impacted upon children and adults in school this week. With this in mind, during the coming period, we would ask that **any children who are absent from school due to vomiting or diarrhoea remain away from school until clear of symptoms for 48 hours**. We seek to avoid putting in place such guidelines until we see the sort of significant patterns of infection that we are observing this week so thank-you for your support with this too.

Having said all of this we really do wish you a healthy and happy weekend. We look forward to working with you and your children next week, when with all of our efforts we will continue to enjoy together the best that Haytor View can bring.

Yours sincerely

Scott Hampton
Co-Head Teacher

Katy Galling
Co-Head Teacher