



Mowbray School

North Yorkshire County Council

Masham Road
Bedale
North Yorkshire
DL8 2SD

Tel: 01677 422446

Email: admin@mowbrayschool.co.uk.

Executive Headteacher: Jonathan Tearle M.Ed B.Ed (Hons)

Head of School: Karen Pickles B.Ed MA PG Cert NPQH



Dear Parent/Carer

Tuesday 15th March 2022

Staff and pupil absences in school

Unfortunately, we are experiencing a high number of staff absent from school at the moment, with 29 absent today and a similar number yesterday. Several staff are absent with flu and colds and 8 staff have contracted Covid. The Covid guidance for special schools is different to that of mainstream schools, due to the vulnerability of our pupils. This means that staff with Covid continue to be absent from school until they have two consecutive negative tests or after ten days absence can return to work. The vast majority of the staff who have Covid work in our primary department. It is important that pupils and staff continue to test for Covid twice a week.

It is important that we all continue to be vigilant in regard to Covid, I would advise if your child is displaying the following symptoms, that you test them for Covid and keep them off school;

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Covid has not disappeared and the figures below show a significant increase in cases across our area.



The high levels of staff absence have caused us to close two classes today and additional staff have gone home ill today, as a result these classes will be closed tomorrow, (Wednesday 16th March 2022), we will let you know when they will re-open.

- 2LC Mrs Cooper's class
- 2EB Ms Bowes class
- 10F Mrs Adams class

- 1SH Mrs Howell and Mrs Stewarts class
We anticipate that Class 1HW (Mrs Wilkinson) will re-open tomorrow.

I know that closing classes is detrimental to your child's education, but simply if we cannot staff classes then it is unsafe for them to be open. I am sorry that we have had to take these measures and do understand the additional pressures this places on you all. I am very grateful for your support and understanding during this difficult time.

My thanks to all our staff for their efforts in keeping school open, covering for absent colleagues and keeping children learning.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Tearle
Executive Headteacher