

**WEOBLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
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**Head of School  
Mr S Warrell BA (Hons), PGCE**

15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Herefordshire has seen a significant increase in the number of positive COVID cases and this is inevitably impacting on schools. We are now starting to see a number of children and adults contracting COVID in Weobley Primary. This is still a very small number, and I put this down to the protective measures we take in school and the cooperation of parents to help keep the virus out of the school.

I am aware that a number of local schools have been forced to close, either due to a significant outbreak or a lack of staff to safely operate the school. I am determined to do everything possible to prevent our school closing and seek the support of the entire community to help with this.

In school, we have introduced a number of additional precautions on top of those already in place. These changes predominantly impact on the staff, as if a large number of staff were to be absent, the school would be unable to operate safely. Staff are now wearing facemasks around communal areas, the staffroom is no longer open and staff are being asked to keep a social distance between each other whenever practically possible. The Department for Education are reluctant to impose too many restrictions for the children, so at this stage, we will not return to bubbles, but will monitor the situation.

Keeping the school open is my priority, because of this, I have had to make some difficult decisions. The first being to conduct this year's first parent consultations by phone. Sadly, the second one is to **close** the Harvest Festival Assembly to parents. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause. This is not a decision that I have taken lightly as I know how important these events are to our families. However, this arrangement will mean that there is more space in the church to allow the children and staff to spread out, reducing the spread of the virus should anyone be carrying it. We will endeavour to broadcast the assembly live on our Facebook page. Whilst we appreciate this is not the same experience, some families have shared with us that it has allowed them to watch the assembly without taking time out from work and extended families are also able to be part of the celebration.

With so many other winter colds and bugs around at the moment, I appreciate it is not always easy to determine if the symptoms are that of COVID or some other virus. I would urge however, that if your child has any of the three main symptoms that you keep your child at home and seek a PCR test for them, if the PCR test is negative, they can return to school as soon as they feel well enough. If they receive a positive test result or they do not take a test, they should self-isolate for 10 full days after the symptoms started.

The main three symptoms we are looking for are:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Government guidance states that you are able to send your child/children into school if another household member has received a positive COVID test result. You may deem it necessary to test them and keep them off until receiving the results. We will support you if this is the case, however, it is essential that you contact the school in this situation.

At this stage, I would like to reiterate that cases are still very low in Weobley Primary School and I hope that these precautionary measures will help keep it this way. Many thanks for your continued support in these difficult times.

Kind regards,

Stephen Warrell