

Dear parents and carers

It has been really good to have all the staff in this week. We have been busy getting everything ready to safely welcome our children and young people back to school. It is likely that there will be more letters and messages home to keep everyone up to date with what is going on at school and locally. Please read the previous letter about arrangements if you are bringing your child to school in your own vehicle. The paragraph below is about the local authority transport arrangements.

### **Transport:**

All transport is to remain the same unless you as a parent have been contacted by RMBC either by phone or letter. There may be slight changes to timings if new passengers are added but we will contact anyone where changes apply.

If you do not hear from the local authority transport will be back in place as normal from September 2020 if transport is no longer needed then please contact Transport to inform them of this, 01709 334325 / 01709334322.

### **Attendance and Covid:**

- If your child complains of feeling unwell at school with Non COVID symptoms such as sickness, injury, period pains etc. they will be assessed by Newman staff and medical attention will be offered accordingly.
- If you are keeping your child at home because they are experiencing COVID symptoms you must ring school to inform us of the date the symptoms started. You must then keep your child at home to isolate for a minimum of 10 days, this can end early only if the child can prove a test has been taken and this is negative. If your child has siblings at home, they must also isolate for a minimum of 14 days.
- If your child complains of feeling unwell with COVID symptoms at school, they will be sent to our Medical Isolation Room. If their temperature is raised or they are showing signs of COVID symptoms we will ask for them to be collected, they must then isolate for a minimum of 10 days. This can end early only if the child can prove a test has been taken and this is negative.

## **Feeling unwell.**

We strongly advise that anyone showing COVID symptoms should be tested. Pupils will not be allowed to return earlier than the set isolation period without proof of a negative test result.

We have undertaken extensive planning around:

- Increased hand washing/sanitising (and associated facilities);
- Enhanced cleaning regimes
- Temperature checks for staff and pupils where appropriate
- Track and trace
- Meals in classrooms
- Less mixing in school
- Different break times again to reduce the number of pupils mixing
- New arrival and departure routines also to reduce the number of pupils mixing
- Contingency arrangements if we have to close some or all of school

To keep the school environment as safe as possible we cannot allow visitors including premises on site. Parents and carers bringing their children to school must observe social distancing and remain outside the reception. We ask you to send your children into school with as few items as possible to reduce risk. As a school and community we must continue to remain vigilant at home and school. Personal hygiene, social distancing and being sensible, are all key parts of managing and keeping Covid at bay. I am confident that the planning and preparation we are putting in place will make Newman as safe as it possibly be for the pupils and staff. I look forward to next week when the children return and having a full, excited and happy school. We are confident that school is as safe as possible and we are ready to be a place of learning, of friendship and for laughter once again.

Take care. Keep safe.

*Paul Silvester*

Headteacher

Newman Special School