

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, thank you for your continued support and cooperation during these extremely difficult times. I am just writing with regards to some changes taking effect from next week in light of the Covid 19 Pandemic based on some revisions to our risk assessment following guidance from both our HR and Health and Safety provider.

FAO Parents/Carers- Crew McLoughlin

I am writing to let you know that as of Friday 20th November, Crew McLoughlin will have a slightly shorter day due to current staffing absence within school. You may or may not be aware, but any staff members deemed to be in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Group have once again been asked to shield during this lockdown phase. This has therefore impacted upon our staffing capacity within school and we are unfortunately unable to cover Crew McLoughlin on a Friday from 1.00 until 1.50pm.

This is mainly due to the fact that Mrs Fortune, who usually covers your child's bubble on a Friday afternoon, is required to cover in another bubble on that same day to cover absence, therefore, due to bubble restrictions and being unable to cross staff across bubbles, we feel that the safest option at this stage is to close Crew McLoughlin at 1.00pm on a Friday. We are hoping that this will be just until the end of the lockdown period, but there may well be a chance that this will run until Christmas, depending on the guidance for those being asked to shield.

I have spent some time really thinking about this and how to keep them in school until 1.50, but it would mean staff crossing bubbles and this is strongly against guidance provided by the H&S team. I am sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but our priority at the moment is keeping everyone safe and we feel that at this stage, unfortunately we are short of an alternative solution.

Thank you for your understanding and we will aim to have Crew McLoughlin back in for their additional 50 minutes as soon as we have the staffing capacity to do this safely.

Cleaning and Site Maintenance

The second area in which we have been reviewing is around cleaning and site maintenance.

Myself and Mrs Lythe have been looking at our risk assessment with regards to our cleaning regime and making some adaptations in light of the recent rise in the number of infections across the Doncaster region.

Firstly, we would like to thank Mr Hull and his team for the amazing work they have done and continue to do in order to keep our school a safe environment. Our cleaning is of an extremely high standard and I do believe that this is a contributing factor when evaluating the success in which we have had with regards to keeping children and staff safe since reopening back in June 2020. Thank you to Mr Hull and team, we would be lost without you.

However, as Mr Hull's Line Manager, Mrs Lythe is concerned about the amount of time the 'deep cleaning' takes on an evening and that this is starting to take its toll on our Site Team's Health and Wellbeing as they are then not able to complete some of their other tasks.

We are a fairly large site and although the amount of cleaning expected to take place has increased, unfortunately, the cleaning budget has not. Therefore, 'deep cleaning' is now the priority on a day to day basis and some other things have had to wait.

When we reflected upon the cleaning regimes for the Autumn Term, we realised that it's much more difficult for the team to keep on top of the 'deep cleaning' this term in comparison to the Summer Term, as the team had the Friday each week in order to finish any deep cleaning jobs whilst catching up on any bits missed throughout the week.

In addition to this, there is much more 'deep cleaning' to complete day to day now as we now use the corridors and hall space on a daily basis, which is additional to the regime set in the summer term.

Therefore, we felt the need to review the amount of hours allocated to the team without this going too late into the evening.

As a result, Mrs Lythe and I have decided that the Site Management team would benefit from having an additional full day every now and then, in order to deep clean in addition to catching up on any jobs which have not been completed as a result of deep cleaning. We have tried to avoid this for as long as we could in the hope that the cleaning might become easier, but if anything, at the minute we are having to be even more vigilant due the rise in the infection rate.

Therefore, school will be closed to all pupils and staff on **Friday 4th December** in order to allow the site team an additional full day in order to deep clean and keep on track without anybody else on site.

Then, school will close to all pupils on **Thursday 17th December at 1pm**, in order to allow the staff and site team the opportunity to deep clean the site ahead of the Christmas break.

Pupils will have work set for them to complete at home on **Friday 4th December and will bring this home with them on the Thursday evening**. The work will be 'practise style' activities linked to Arithmetic, Times Tables and Reading fluency as these are our focus this term; we are asking for the children to complete these independently as all of these activities will form part of our 'prove it' assessment, as staff begin to assess the children as we approach the end of the Autumn term. Therefore, parents are not required to teach their child on this Friday, if they are unable to do a question, just tell them to miss it out and staff can then teach this the following week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding, as our parents have been absolutely amazing this term and hope that parents can see that we are trying our best to keep on top of our risk assessment whilst ensuring that any disruption is kept to a minimum.

We do have a number of parents that still have concerns regarding their child attending school during the pandemic, however, we do hope that parents can see that as a school we are putting the safety and welfare of both children and staff at the forefront of what we do at this time and will continue to review and tweak our risk assessment, ensuring that we do everything in which we can in order to prevent the spread of this virus, keeping our children and their families safe.

We would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding at this time. If you do have any queries, please do not hesitate to drop me an email and I will be in touch.

k.laing@carcroftschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Miss Laing
Headteacher