

Good afternoon Parents and Carers,

In today's newsletter I want to do two things - celebrate a fantastic week AND give some key messages and updates

This week as you know, has been our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) week with the children. I just love the photos below - each year group have a different biodiversity focus. The learning, whether it has been scientific, mathematical or developing collaborative and problem solving has been a joy to be part of and will develop skills and knowledge for life. Pictures do indeed tell a 1000 words

Year 4 studying and sharing data around pollination Year 3 taking careful measurements



Year 6 studying biodiversity around the pond area Where would a woodlouse choose to live?
What a great question for Year 1 to investigate



Year 2 learning all about the importance of trees to habitats and environments



Bug spotting for our early Years Children



Year 5 are collecting data about different species in the area and want to encourage a wider variety



The discovery of other wildlife around our site is evident too!!



Latest Covid updates and how it is affects us

Unfortunately, things are not so positive in regards to the Covid situation and the new variant. It is worth you all being aware that there is a spike of cases in York at present, not from a scaremongering perspective, but from a practical point of view

There is also a spike across the school community in York, there have been at least 5 schools impacted with bubbles sent home just in the last few days and there appears to be an increased percentage of cases in children of school age..

Advice given by Public Health England at a City of York meeting this week advised that schools do not carry out face-to-face transition days, including Year 6 visits to secondary schools. Education is still operating under the current Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance May 2021 The advice is to continue maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix. Schools should continue to weigh up the risks of any increase in contacts when planning summer activities as it could lead to an increased number of pupils and staff self-isolating. Public Health England also reinforced that in carrying out any activity, make sure it complies with current guidance and to keep up hygiene regimes, including hand washing routines and frequent cleaning of touchpoints,

mask wearing on site or in busy places and maintaining a distance wherever possible in order to reduce becoming a contact.

*They described all these elements as 'basic risk reduction' measures that relate to a "**marginal gains**" rule; ie doing a host of more minor things will yield significant benefits.*

For our school, this emphasises the need to continue with the measures that we have in place and ensure that everyone understands the importance of maintaining safe practice both in and out of school.

It also confirms that having large groups of adults on site for sports days or leavers events will not be viable. We will of course be doing wonderful things with your children and exploring ways of sharing a flavour of them with you.

We will be seeking further guidance around school visits and ensuring that if they do go ahead, that we have appropriate measures in place to minimise risks as much as we can.

It also reminds us that we will need to keep our phones to hand should there be a need to make urgent contact with you or if there becomes a swift need to send a bubble of children home.

Remember, if you have concerns or symptoms at home, you should ensure the person with symptoms has a PCR Test and the rest of your family isolates until you receive the results. Please inform school if your child goes for a PCR test as soon as possible by phone 01904 806414 or by email admin.rws@ebor.academy

We are also hearing of inaccuracies in Track and Trace timings for return to school or work. The correct rule is to isolate for 10 days **after** the date of the positive test ie returning on the 11th day.

Here is a reminder of our 8 Site Rules - They are working here so please don't change and together we can help each other keep the numbers of cases in this area of York as low as possible!

It is so important on a site the size of ours that we all follow the same rules together.

1. There should be **nobody** waiting outside or entering the school gates before 8:40 at the very earliest!
- 2 **One** parent only on site for drop off or collection
- 3 Keep your children **close to you AT ALL times** when you are on site.
We are afraid pick up time is not an extra playtime..... Please emphasise this with your children.
4. Give regular reminders to your children about '**Respecting each other's space**'.
- 5 **Wear masks on site** - this helps to mitigate the risk in the tight spots around school - where social distancing is a challenge (eg the two narrow paths around the edge of the school site)
- 6 **Maintain a distance** from each other wherever possible and clear the school grounds and gates as swiftly as possible too.
- 7 Year 5 & 6 may be **unaccompanied** but please remind your child of the expectations and we advise these age groups not to arrive at school before 8:45
- 8 **No dogs left at the front of school unaccompanied** please for the safety of everyone and of course your dog

Apologies for finishing on not such a positive note, but it is so important that we work together in order for us to protect the wonderful things we do in the top half of this newsletter for our children!

Enjoy your weekend everyone and don't hesitate to contact us if you need.

Chris Evans