



Highfields Academy

Together we inspire, always aiming higher

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Good morning everyone,

I hope you are all well and have had a good weekend. You have probably seen in the news over the weekend that the R rate in the North West of England is now suspected to be just over 1.0. This is potentially concerning as any number over 1.0 means that the number of cases in the area could increase.

It is very difficult to know exactly what the impact of this means for schools in this area. The figure does cover a very wide area, including Liverpool, Manchester and Cumbria. Unfortunately it is impossible to get an accurate figure for a small area such as Cheshire East as there needs to be sufficient data to be able to calculate the figure with a degree of accuracy.

At this moment our plans remain as they were last week but I wanted to reassure you that we are aware of this and are monitoring the situation very carefully. Cheshire East are planning to release a position statement on Wednesday and have sent schools a letter today (I have attached this to this email). Our Board will be discussing the situation on Wednesday evening and we will be able to confirm with you on Thursday whether we are able to continue with our current plans or whether the time frames need to be changed.

This week we will continue to finalise the groupings of pupils and staffing for the return of preschool, Reception and Year 6 on Monday 15th. I know that many parents have emailed teachers directly to ask which group their children will be in and who will be teaching them. Putting the children into groups is quite a complex problem as we need to consider friendship groups but also need to consider other factors too, such as keeping children who have already been attending school as consistent as possible, siblings in different year groups and transition to high school. Final lists of groups and staffing will be published to parents on Thursday, depending on the review of the current situation on Wednesday.

Please be assured that I will keep you all up to date as soon as I can. I know that these are anxious times for you all.

Take care, keep safe.

Simon Dyson
Principal

