



24.11.21

Dear Parents,

We continue to have a number of children and staff who are absent because they have tested positive for Covid-19. Cases are throughout school. Numbers have not significantly increased from my last update; there just seems to be a steady number of new infections. We have also see the return of flu, sickness and cold viruses.

You may have heard on the media that there has been a shortage of supply staff to cover rising staff absences in schools. Although it has been challenging, we have managed to cover absences. Northburn staff plan lessons as they know your children. This minimises disruption to their learning. I continue to monitor the situation in school with Public Health. They are happy with the measures we continue to take to minimise transmission in school. We have CO2 monitors in school so that we can ensure there is adequate ventilation. At present, no additional measures have been recommended. Thank you all for being vigilant, testing your children and keeping us informed. It is much appreciated.

Sadly, I can confirm that we are **not** able to welcome parents and grandparents into school to watch Christmas performances. The local authority and Northumberland Public Health are still recommending that performances are not held in school, particularly as we have cases. The staff and I are really disappointed that this is the case as we were really looking forward to seeing you all in school. I know you will be too and, of course, the children. Staff will film performances for children in Nursery, Reception (Classes 1 & 2) and Key Stage 1 (Classes 4, 5 & 6). I have been able to hear their singing down the corridors and they sound fantastic!

We will also need to cancel carols at St Nicholas' Church on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. However, we are able to celebrate Christmas in school. Christmas assemblies will still go ahead, in classes or on line. The PTA Christmas Jumper extravaganza day is always a highlight as is Christmas dinner. The children will also have their Christmas parties.

Mrs Davison will be sending out more information soon.

Thank you

*Clare Scott*

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