

Charmouth Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to write with a few updates in relation to Covid at this time.

Covid in Dorset

Across the South West, there have been a concerning number of Covid cases and Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset have asked schools since half term to ensure that enhanced measures are in place to help limit the spread. We were not greatly impacted by this guidance, as we continued to maintain our measures, including bubbles. Schools have now been asked to keep enhanced measures in place until at least the end of this term. The letter from Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset included the following information:

We have now reviewed these measures with local and regional partners and agree that these measures should be extended until the end of the school winter term on 17 December. Case rates remain highest amongst school aged children, particularly the 10-14 age group, and removing measures too early could lead to cases increasing rapidly again.

We support the continuation of these measures for the following reasons:

- Our local case rates remain significantly above the England average, and are now above the South West average*
- Case rates are not coming down quickly, and the decrease is much slower than in other regions*
- Across the county, case rates are over 1700 for 0 – 15 year olds*

Carol Service and Nativity

As a result of the above guidance, we have had to make the decision that the Nativity and the Carol Service will be held virtually. We are all disappointed to not be able to do these activities in person

The class contributions to the carol service will be pre-recorded. Families are invited to collect their children at 1:30 on Friday 17th December in order to be able to take part in the virtual Carol Service at 2pm. Any children not collected, will be joining the event in their classrooms and should be collected at 3:05.

We are planning for the Nativity to be live streamed and then available online. This will take place on Wednesday 15th December at 1:45 and a link will be sent to parents nearer the time. The children are learning the songs, so you may already have an earworm or two!

Positive Cases

Currently, a small number of children have tested positive for Covid. None of these children were in school for at least 48 hours before they tested positive (or had reported symptoms), so no children or staff were identified as close contacts.

For any positive cases where the child or staff member has been in school and had contact with children in the previous 48 hours, we will continue to inform parents of the children in the class and ask that your child has a PCR test. If there is more than one case within 48 hours of the letter being sent to parents, we may not inform parents each time.

Covid Symptoms and Testing

If your child has any of the NHS listed symptoms (cough, fever or loss of taste/smell), they need to isolate and have a PCR test. This is not the same as a Lateral Flow Test, which are not advised if there are any symptoms being shown.

We are aware that there are many reports of children, particularly, displaying different symptoms and thank those families who have arranged additional PCR tests just in case.

January 2022

I have made the decision to keep the current arrangements in place for at least the start of the Spring Term. This allows families to make their arrangements for drop off and collection. We continue to review our risk assessments and the advice we are given, particularly at a local level at the moment, and are hoping to be able to ease some of the measures we have in place soon.

A quick reminder that we have an INSET day on Tuesday 4th January, so we will see the children back in school on Wednesday 5th January.

Thank you all for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Laura Cornish

Headteacher

