

Welcome Back



We are delighted to welcome back our pupils and parents to the start of this academic year. The first day of term is always a wonderful day with lots of smiling faces and new shoes. As we had our transition week just before we broke up for the half term, our pupils knew where they were going and had already met their new teacher. This enabled the start of the day to go very smoothly, with all pupils getting into class and starting with their work promptly. As always, we were incredibly proud of the way our pupils returned to school and are looking forward to an excellent year.

E Safety

Staying safe on the internet is a new skill all of our pupils must develop and something all parents needs to be aware of. To help support this, the school have recently signed up to National Safety Online – a resource for pupils, parents and teachers that helps to educate all groups about how to stay safe online. Alongside this newsletter, you will receive a letter introducing parents to the resource with instructions as to how you can sign up and start the journey to knowing more about how to keep children safe online.

Safeguarding team

Safeguarding children is the most important priority for any school. The team that will help support this from September 2021 will be:

- **Mr Dooris – designated safeguarding lead**
- **Mrs Preston – deputy designated safeguarding lead**
- **Mrs Rafferty – Safeguarding governor**

If anyone has a concern regarding the safety of a child, please speak to these staff or contact the school office.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

After 352 days of socially distancing in school with staggered starts and playtimes, it was almost surprising to see a playground full on the first day of term. Although we are delighted to see our pupils playing in the playground and parents dropping family members off, it is still important to make sure that any extra steps we can take to avoid groups and space out when we can, should be taken.

With the vast number of restrictions lifted in school, we are still very conscious that COVID is still around in our community, with current rates of 298/100000 in Marske and the surrounding area. These rates were similar to the end of June.

Within school on the first day of term, we had a small number of families who had COVID which indicates that it is still something we all need to still take precautions with. There is still a significant risk that pupils can catch or transmit coronavirus and this could lead to an outbreak within school. This could close classes or potentially the school. Any pupils that present with any of the COVID symptoms, or test positive with a lateral flow test, should go for a PCR test. The 3 main symptoms of COVID are:

- A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If the test comes back positive, the pupil will need to isolate for 10 days from the onset of either of the 3 symptoms or from the date of the test if no symptoms were present. If the test comes back negative, the pupil should return to school when better.

From August 16th, anyone under the age of 18 or adults who have been double vaccinated, do not need to isolate if someone in their household has COVID. Please can parents still inform the school if someone in their household tests positive with COVID.