



Executive Headteacher:
Mrs K. Bargh B.Ed. (Hons) MA NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mr P. Labrum

Website: www.northstarfederation.org.uk

Friday 15th October 2021

School Level Information following the Walsall LA/Public Health Letter (14/10/21)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following on from Walsall LA/Public Health letter that was sent to us yesterday afternoon (attached), we wanted to reassure you that we are doing everything that we can to be as COVID safe as possible. Since returning to school in September we have kept many COVID safe measures in place to ensure that school is as safe as it can be. From today we will be making some minor changes to current practice.

Things that will remain the same:

- The start and end of school arrangements will remain the same. However, we do ask parents/carers coming onto the playground (Rushall) and to the school door (Oakwood) to wear a face covering please.
- Regular hand washing/sanitising.
- Our procedures for lunch and playtimes.
- The regular 'clean as you go' approach (wiping down of touch points).
- We will continue to communicate if your child has been a close contact of anyone in school as the earliest point by telephone.
- We will continue to send out whole school app notifications keeping you up-to-date on any cases in school. Please see the reverse of this letter for instructions on how to download our app.
- Only essential visitors will be in school.

Things that we will re-introduce from today:

- Staff from today will wear face coverings in communal areas, e.g. around school and on the playground.
- All staff and parent meetings will take place virtually.

Next week...

Rushall Primary: Unfortunately, due to the guidance set out by Public Health, we are unable to have parents in school for our Harvest Festival. As you can imagine we are equally as disappointed as you, we were so hopeful this would be an opportunity to launch our creative performances this year. In true Rushall style, the show will go on! Each class will continue with their performances on the agreed days and will be filmed for families to enjoy at home. Please send in costumes in the same way if this is applicable for your child's class.

Oakwood School: Oakwood enjoyed their virtual Harvest Festival yesterday. Our sponsored walk (50 laps around the playground) will continue as we are doing this in our classes. We will post photographs on our school blog.



Rushall Primary School

Pelsall Lane, Rushall, Walsall, WS4 1NG

Tel: 01922 682300

Email: postbox@rushall.walsall.sch.uk

Head of School: Mrs L O'Brien B.A. (Hons) MA PGCE



Oakwood School

Druids Walk, Walsall Wood, Walsall, WS9 9JS

Tel: 01543 452040

Email: postbox@roakwood.walsall.sch.uk

Head of School: Miss M Smith B.A. (Hons.) PGCE SLE

As always we thank you all for your continued support and encouragement.

With very best wishes,



Kate Bargh
Executive Headteacher



Paul Labrum
Chair of Governors

[How to download our Rushall or Oakwood App](#)

Ours Apps are linked to our school website and provides you with information easily at your fingertips.

Through our app, you can do the following:

- Receive reminders about non-uniform days and school closures
- Check the school calendar
- Receive the latest letters and newsletters



To Download the app

Search for "School Jotter" in the Apple App Store or the Google Play store.

When you open the app you will need to search for and select **Oakwood WS9** or **Rushall WS4** within the app. Once the school has been selected, the app will adapt to match our school branding and theme.



Adult Social Care, Public Health and Hub Children Services

Date: 14 October 2021
Our Ref: STG/
Telephone: 01922 650334
Email: Kulvinder.kaur@walsall.gov.uk

Re: Recommended controls to manage COVID-19 transmission

Dear Parent / Carer

We are writing to let you know that from Monday 18 October we are advising education settings in Walsall to consider re-introducing COVID-19 secure measures.

For primary (including infant and junior) and special schools this includes;

- Consider re-introducing class bubbles
- Limit staff cross overs
- Consider how you hold all school events e.g. assemblies
- Consider risk and benefit of external visitors
- All non-essential events where parents / carers visit schools are moved to virtual
- No all staff meetings
- Consider staggering lunch and start and finish times
- Wearing of face coverings in communal areas by school staff
- Ensure any visits out of school are to COVID-secure premises
- Consider other COVID-secure controls that were used in the last academic year
- Staff to test themselves for COVID-19 twice a week, and more frequently if they are specifically asked to do so
- Promote vaccination to staff not yet fully vaccinated and boosters as staff become eligible

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to remain high in Walsall, with a gradual weekly increase during the past month. The majority of positive cases are currently in school aged children and young people.

We hope you will understand and support the need for caution at this time. We have taken this decision to ensure that we are providing both pupils and staff with a further layer of protection.

Your school will share any changes with you via their normal communication channels. As soon as the number of positive cases school reduces, these measures will be stepped down again.

How you can help

- To keep education and family life moving in Walsall, here are some practical things you can do:
Keep your child off school and book a PCR test if they have COVID symptoms - high temperature, continuous cough, loss or change to taste or smell) - regardless of how mild. Do not use a lateral flow test and instead book your PCR test online via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by calling 119.



- Carry out twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home (children aged 12+ only).
- Book a PCR test for everyone in your household if one member tests positive
- Follow hands-face-space and fresh air. Try to meet outdoors where possible, or if indoors, open windows, wear a face covering in crowded places and wash your hands regularly.

Even if you have had your COVID-19 vaccinations, by making the above part of your routine, you will be helping your school community to continue doing the things they enjoy and help stop the virus spreading.

Whilst the risk of serious illness from COVID-19 is low for children and young people, it is important that we take proactive steps to reduce the spread of infection, bring cases down and minimise further disruption to education.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Stephen Gunther
Director of Public Health

Sharon Kelly
Director Access and Inclusion

The infographic is a vertical poster with a blue header and a light blue body. The header contains the HM Government logo and the NHS logo. The main title is 'COVID-19 Response: Autumn 2021'. Below the title, it states 'The country is learning to live with COVID-19, and the main line of defence is vaccination.' and 'The following safer behaviours and actions are practical steps you can take to help protect yourself and others.' A central banner reads 'Safer behaviours and actions'. Below this, there are seven icons with corresponding text: 1. A syringe icon with 'Get vaccinated'. 2. An open window icon with 'Meeting outdoors is safer. If you meet indoors, let fresh air in'. 3. A face mask icon with 'Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet'. 4. A test tube icon with 'Get tested, and self isolate if required'. 5. A bed icon with 'Try to stay at home if you are unwell'. 6. A hand being washed under water icon with 'Wash your hands'. 7. A smartphone icon with 'Download and use the NHS COVID-19 App'. At the bottom, a blue button says 'For more information, visit gov.uk'.

HM Government

NHS

COVID-19 Response: Autumn 2021

The country is learning to live with COVID-19, and the main line of defence is vaccination.

The following safer behaviours and actions are practical steps you can take to help protect yourself and others.

Safer behaviours and actions

- Get vaccinated
- Meeting outdoors is safer. If you meet indoors, let fresh air in
- Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet
- Get tested, and self isolate if required
- Try to stay at home if you are unwell
- Wash your hands
- Download and use the NHS COVID-19 App

For more information, visit gov.uk