



Autumn Term - Date: 28.01.2022

Talking Head

'Welcome to 2022, and isn't it glorious?' B.Sutton (previous newsletter)

It's been an interesting couple of weeks since the last newsletter, particularly in the last week. Having said that we've been unscathed by the 'vid, that's not quite true anymore!

You'll have seen the numbers in the summaries, but I did want to pick up on a few points - three, to be exact.

1. STAFF

As always, and as you've come to expect - which means that at times it can be easy to forget that not everywhere is like Dringhouses Primary - the whole team here have been absolutely maxed out, but working incredibly hard to keep everything as normal, and functioning as smoothly as possible while we have this current spike in covid cases across the school. People are covering other staff (13 off with covid, including myself) across the key stages, to make sure that the children have the safe, welcoming, calm environment that they should have. It's been a challenge, and our staff have really pulled together, and delivered.

Dringhouses Primary staff: we salute you - if you want to *actually* salute them when you see them in the playground, that's ok.

2. NATIONAL

The nationally presented picture versus the picture in our reality are different, depending on the media outlets that you do/don't engage with.

If you listened to those esteemed leaders in government, you'd be forgiven for thinking that Covid has all but disappeared.

However, delving a little further into **the covid case numbers for Dringhouses (972 per 100,000)** and for York (891 per 100,000), and the case rates for schools in York more generally, you can see the need for continued vigilance and continued assessment of any risks that face yourselves at home, and on our part in school.

It might be convenient for Covid to have been battled and won as a distraction from a couple of other things going on in government at the minute, but we're not there yet, as our colleagues in Public Health continue to tell us.

As it stands, the isolations at school, and the year-group phase bubbling appears to have stemmed the increase in numbers (although I say that with caution!).

We'll keep you posted and hope to report a further drop over the coming days.

3. YOU

I love an opportunity to thank our community - you, your households, our wider community, - and in the same way that staff being consistently fab means that it can be harder to notice at times, the same goes for the strength and support of you all at home.

Some of our team have been calling home-learners this week, and the conversations that they've had have been so positive, kind, and supportive.

However home-learning feels like it's going (I'm isolating with my 2 year old, and I have NO idea how any of you did it for such long periods over the last couple of years...How much Zog is too much Zog? When does ice-cream stop counting as all of the food groups? Do dogs with little legs get enough exercise if you hold them in the air and let their legs walk as if on a treadmill?), you're doing a great job. Give yourself a pat on the back, and a G&T/sparkling elderflower presse/can of Skol/all of the above tonight.

Sincerely, thanks for everything that you're doing, and for the support and kind words that you're showing.

See you on the playground!

Ben Sutton | **Headteacher**

Dringhouses Out of School Club

Your local out of school club - used by many of our families needs your help.

1. **TRUSTEES** - the club needs trustees to run it! If you have time, or if you know anyone with an interest, please let the club know at dringhouses@yorkchildcare.co.uk
2. **JOB VACANCIES** - the club desperately needs more staff to run it! If you know anyone who'd be interested (and it's in everyone who uses the club's interest!) in a **manager's** position, or in **playworker** positions, please tell them...similarly, if you know of anywhere to advertise these positions, please let them know too. The club is running with minimal staff, and it's a very challenging situation that has already resulted in closures, as you will have experienced. Please share the vacancies widely.
3. **PLACES** - as a reminder, please get in touch with the team above email address if you'd like to inquire.



ParentPay

It's working again. But we're still not friends.



Covid / Testing:

You can find full details at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

