



# BANWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Belong Believe Achieve**

Headteacher: Mrs C Pocock

West Street, Banwell, North Somerset, BS29 6DB

Telephone: 01934 822498

Email: [office@banwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@banwellprimary.co.uk)

Web: [www.banwellprimary.co.uk](http://www.banwellprimary.co.uk)



14 March 2022

Dear parents & carers,

As many of you are aware, due to the letter sent to some classes over the weekend, we have a significant number of staff absent from school at the moment. With the exception of one person, the absence is due to having COVID and is affecting key stage two classes at this time. We also have a number of children absent today with Covid. I am sure you will join me in wishing these people a speedy recovery.

Having lots of staff absent, especially in a small school, creates a high level of challenge in covering all classes. At this moment in time we have a plan in place to cover the absences this week but this is obviously subject to change, should more staff need to isolate. In the event that we cannot get enough staff to cover the classes we would have to consider class closure. This would obviously be the absolute last resort but we have to ensure we have enough staff in school to safely manage all children. Please keep a close eye on your emails as we will notify families of any necessary updates / closures in this way.

Current planned class cover this week is in the table below (please note there have been some changes since the weekend):

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ROBINS	Mrs Watson	Mrs Watson	TBC	Mrs Watson
FALCONS	Mrs Arnold & Mr Fuller	Mrs Isgrove	Mrs Isgrove	Mrs Isgrove
HAWKS	Mr Venn	Mrs Hackeson	Mrs Watson	Mr Venn
EAGLES	Mr Davis	Mr Davis	Mr Davis	Mr Davis

Due to the increased numbers of cases we have in school we have stepped up our mitigations. This means we are limiting visitors into school, adults are wearing face coverings in communal areas, we have paused assemblies and are increasing cleaning routines. We continue to keep classrooms well ventilated.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind everyone of the current guidance that is in place:



## When to stay at home

You should stay at home and avoid contact with other people if you:

- have any of the [main symptoms of COVID-19](#)
- have tested positive for COVID-19 – this means you have the virus

Information:

If you have any of the main symptoms of COVID-19, you should also get a [PCR test to check if you have COVID-19 on GOV.UK](#) as soon as possible. This is a test that is sent to a lab.

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) 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

**While you're no longer required by law to self isolate if you have COVID-19, you should still stay at home and avoid contact with other people. This helps reduce the chance of passing COVID-19 on to others and will therefore help us to keep as many children and staff in school as possible.**

We are hoping that many of our parents' evenings will still be able to go ahead. We will review this on a daily basis and inform parents and carers as soon as we can in the event that we have to postpone.

Please be assured that we continue to liaise with Public Health England and the local authority about the appropriate course of action at this time.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support at this challenging time.

Best wishes,

Claire

Claire Pocock  
Headteacher  
Banwell Primary School  
Tel: 01934 822498  
Email: [claire.pocock@banwellprimary.co.uk](mailto:claire.pocock@banwellprimary.co.uk)

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