



6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I know how hard this latest lockdown and the restrictions associated with it will be for many of you and we are here to support your child's learning at home as much as we can.

I do want to ask you to consider the bigger picture when asking for a place in school and then sending your child/ children in. Currently we are at capacity with children of parents who are both critical workers or children who are vulnerable.

Throughout the Autumn Term we did incredibly well as a school to keep the virus at bay. This has meant that we have been able to carry on teaching and learning with staffing levels as they should be whilst many other schools have closed. Prior to the lockdown we had planned to continue to do this. Now that the lockdown has been called it is vital that we all **Stay Home and Protect The NHS**.

Rates of infections have been climbing in school pupils exponentially since the start of the Autumn Term, including in Primary aged pupils. While the majority of children are not very ill with the virus, they do still pass it on to adults in the home and in school and some children do get quite poorly. (I have enclosed some data and graphs to show this climb).

Covid rates among school staff in some areas are as much as four times the corresponding local authority average and over Christmas I have had friends and colleagues who have developed COVID and are still poorly because of it. I am not scare mongering, I am stating facts.

**I ask you to seriously consider whether your child really needs the place in school if you have requested one, or if you can make alternate arrangements that will lessen the risk to everyone. I also request that if you have been offered a place you only send your child in on the days that you are working as this will also lessen the risk to everyone. If one parent, regardless of whether you live together or not, can cover child care then please do this.**

This lockdown does feel very different as many people who were not able to work in March and April seem to be able to carry on working this time. I understand the pressure this puts on you all but again, I ask that you **Stay Home and Protest the NHS** as this new strain is putting undue pressure on the resources that we have.

Please remember that staff are also juggling being in school with children, planning for and responding to work on Class Dojo and having to care for and teach their own children and grandchildren at home.

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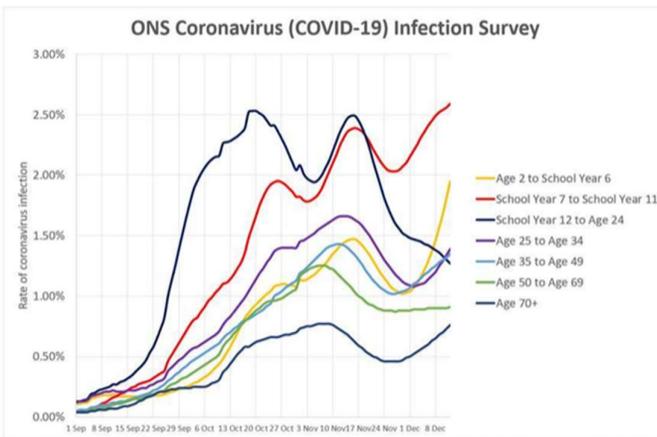
### Rate of COVID-19 infection per 100,000

Age group	1 September	12 December	Increase in multiples
Age 2 to School Year 6	110	1,950	<b>18</b>
School Year 7 to School Year 11	40	2,590	<b>65</b>
School Year 12 to Age 24	130	1,270	<b>10</b>
Age 25 to Age 34	120	1,390	<b>12</b>
Age 35 to Age 49	50	1,350	<b>27</b>
Age 50 to Age 69	40	910	<b>23</b>
Age 70+	40	760	<b>19</b>

Source:

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Survey, UK Statistical bulletins**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/healthandsocialcare/conditions>



If you have any questions please ring school 01524 65445 or email [contact-us@skertonstlukes.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:contact-us@skertonstlukes.lancs.sch.uk)

Please continue to look after yourselves and each other.

Yours,

*C.A. Armistead*  
Headteacher

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