

11 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wanted to write again to thank you for your continued support and to provide an update on the position in schools across Coventry.

We appreciate that a number of you will have been dealing with the challenge of working and also supporting your children at home to access their learning. We want to thank you for keeping your children and young people at home where you can. This has enabled us to maintain a reduction in class bubble size in Coventry as an extra precautionary measure to reduce COVID-19 transmission within the school population.

Coventry's current rate of 231 people with the virus for every 100,000 of the population, has reduced, but continues to remain higher than when schools fully opened in September 2020.

Like you we are keen to see schools fully open at the earliest safe opportunity, but an ongoing reduced infection rate will be absolutely key to achieving this. During the half term break we appreciate that keeping children and young people at home and restricting contact with friends and family may seem even more difficult than during term-time. We urge you, however, to continue to adhere to the lockdown rules and minimise contact with people outside your immediate household to ensure we do not see an increase in the infection rates in Coventry. A reminder of the key rules is available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

We are also pleased to let you know that from Thursday 18th February we are extending our Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) Community sites to be able to test children and young people from age 2. We are urging all parents and carers to take their children and young people for a COVID-19 test at a LFT site on a weekly basis if they are not accessing this in school. In the first instance where you have a child currently attending onsite provision in an early years setting, nursery class or primary school, please can you take your child for a test prior to their return to school (week commencing 22nd February). Information on the location of LFT Community sites is available at <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/lateralflowtesting>

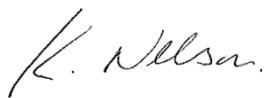
As I'm sure you will be aware government have announced that schools may reopen in a phased way from the 8th March, obviously this will be dependent upon COVID-19 infection rates. We do not yet have further detail of the proposals, but we will be working with the Department for Education and Coventry schools over the next few weeks to

plan, and schools will provide further information for parents and carers as soon as this is available.

We continue to take every measure to make sure our schools are as safe as possible, and I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping our city reduce COVID-19 infection rates.

If you would like any more help and advice around COVID-19, please go to <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Yours sincerely,



Kirston Nelson
Director of Education & Skills



Liz Gaulton
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing