



WyreForestSchool



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Communication Specialist

RG / KV

08.01.2021

Dear Parents,

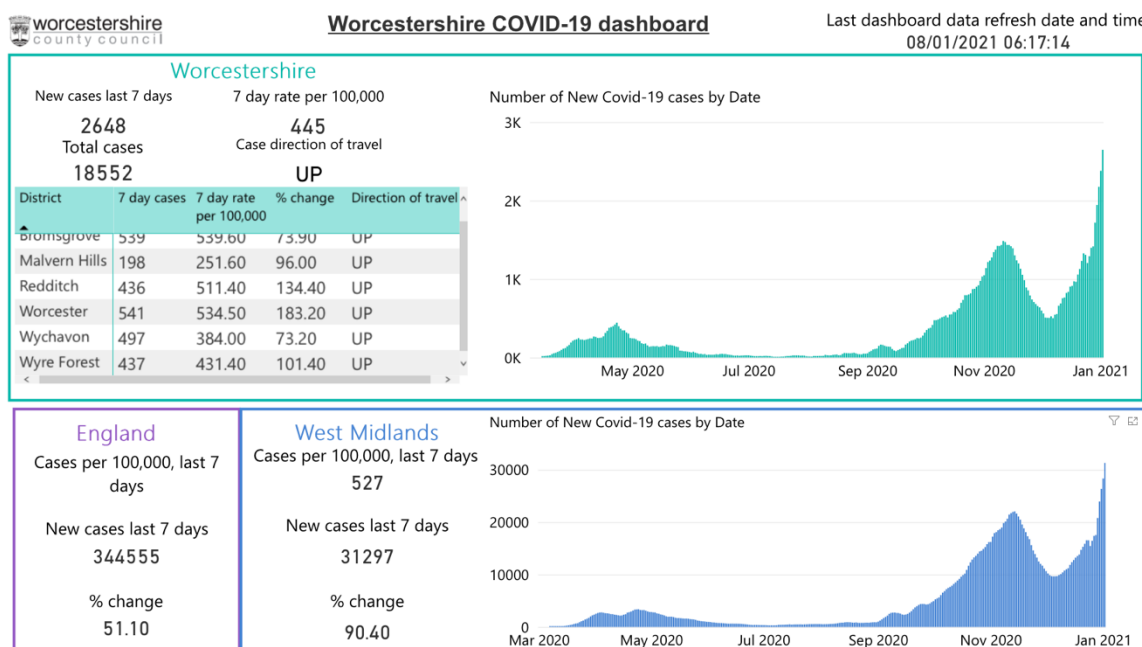
Thank you for your continuing support in these challenging and frightening times. The vast majority of our parents have asked to keep their child at home and receive the support and home learning as we did in Lock down 1. Rest assured, all children working from home are recorded as authorised and it will not impact on their attendance.

Where family's circumstances are able to do this, can I personally thank you, as we are under a lot of pressure regards safe staffing levels and we want to stop this virus! It hit home to me when a front-line parent, working for the NHS with COVID patients, didn't want to take their critical worker place as they wanted to keep their child safe at home. The Prime Minister finally acknowledged on Monday night that although children don't appear to be getting as ill with COVID as adults, they are vectors, helping to spread the virus. This is highly evident when you look at the graphs and relate them to when schools are open.

It really is a challenging time to make sure staff and pupils are safe, especially when the science says one thing and we are expected to do something else. I can honestly say this week has been the most difficult of my 14 years as a headteacher. The misinformation, u-turns and lateness of guidance has not helped us plan to enable us to serve our families appropriately and this has frustrated me. My dry January lasted until Monday night at 8.05pm!

This link enables you to keep up to date with Worcestershire data regards COVID

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiOTc3MDU3MjAtM2VjNy00NmVjLWFKZGZlZDlyNmUzZTg2NDYwIiwidCI6ImFjZjQxODg3LWJkMzctNDVhMy05ZTY1LTQ3Y2RINDhkYzg1YSIsImMiOiJh9&pageName=ReportSection7933c8e59bfa92dd663e>



In the last 7 days Wyre Forest has seen a 101.4% increase. We really need to treat this lockdown seriously.

We will review which children are in school and our safe staffing levels regularly, but we have to be careful as we are working in bubbles. If you are a critical worker and you weren't during lockdown 1, we will ask for proof such as an ID badge or payslip. We are entitled to do this, as stated in the Department for Education guidance. As I have said previously, safe staffing levels is our biggest challenge.

Staff who are working in school next week, will begin the lateral flow tests on Monday morning. All week we have been training how we do this and making sure we have all the necessary equipment and precautions. Hopefully they will all be negative so we can keep the staff teams!

You may have seen in the media the Secretary of State talking about remote learning, the guidance about this came out last night. In the media you will have heard the hours that each year group is expected to do, but for SEND schools such as ours it states that;

'For pupils with SEND, their teachers are best-placed to know how the pupil's needs can be most effectively met to ensure they continue to make progress..'

Please continue to talk to your teachers about what is working for you, what else you need etc etc Mrs Kehoe and I will be working on this in more depth next week. Staff feedback to me any concerns, wants etc and we will work hard to help everyone. Please do not stress about home learning – just chat to class teachers. We can only do our best.

The photos that have been coming in for the newsletter are fantastic! I am loving looking at them and you will continue to get our weekly newsletter. The You Tube channel is already being filled with new videos <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5qshpb6v7Z0O1TSs6lhmBQ/videos>

Wishing you all a safe and happy weekend and please stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives.

