



Waddesdon C of E School | Coronavirus Newsletter 15 – 7/12/20

Reasons to be thankful...

Over the past few weeks, we have been reflecting on things that we can be thankful for, expressed in the main through our annual Service of Praise and Thanksgiving.

You be able to be able to read more about this event in the forthcoming edition of the Waddesdon Voice, but in the meantime, may want to enjoy [this wonderful student and staff recording.](#)



Our whole school community remains exceptionally grateful for the many donations which have contributed to the development of the recording studio, thanks to which the students can produce work of this quality.

In this short edition of the Coronavirus Newsletter, as well as the **updates relating to Covid-19**, I have included the information that has been shared with us about the arrangements for the **summer exams** and the links to the areas where parents can find further information. I hope that you find it useful.

Mr Abbott

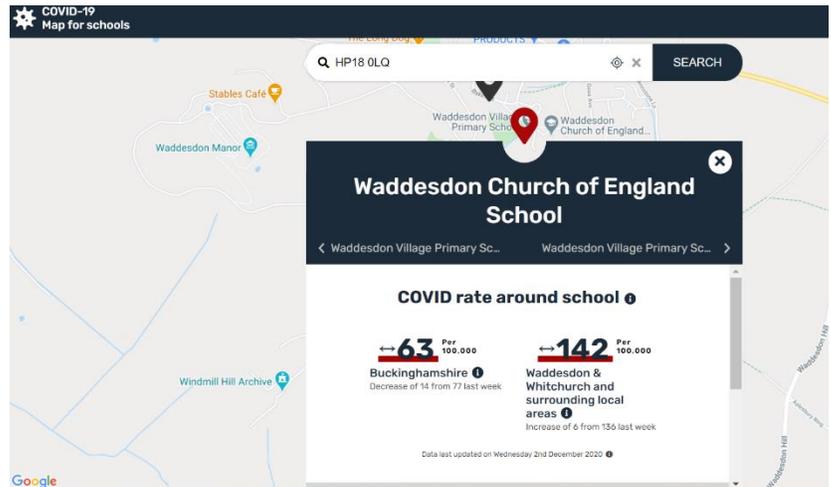


Combatting Coronavirus

One of the best sources of local information is the Covid-19 Map for schools.

The image to the right indicates the number of positive cases of Covid-19 in relation to Waddesdon and the surrounding area on 2nd December.

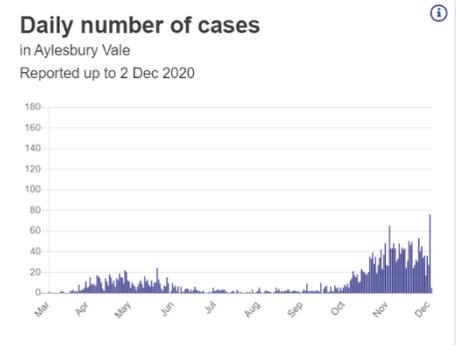
Although numbers are steady, they are higher than the Buckinghamshire average and significantly higher than in early October.



For this reason, we continue to reinforce the following key protective measures in schools:

- Regular hand washing
- Year group bubbles, including social distancing and the 'rule of six' at lunchtime
- Adequate ventilation in all spaces
- Mask wearing in communal areas and some classrooms
- Thorough cleaning

Further local information can be found by using the Buckinghamshire Covid-19 [dashboard](#) which reflects the higher overall numbers in the Aylesbury Vale.



Cases in school

Since September we have had four cases in school: one in Year 7, one in Year 9, one teacher and one other staff member. Due to the effective use of self-isolation in response to Public Health England advice, none of these individual cases has led to further infection in school.

Please continue to check that your son or daughter understands why these measures are in place, particularly as we approach the Christmas season. If there is a case in the final week of term, this will curtail many of the activities that we are all looking forward to. We have also emphasized this to our staff.

To give you an idea of current numbers of students who are out of school, on Friday, 4th December, we had 9 students out of 1007 awaiting results for themselves or family members. None had tested positive.



Reminder

When your child has PE, please check that they have with them their payment card for the restaurant. This will avoid them coming into too close contact with the adults who supervise the pay stations.



GCSE, AS and A Levels

Students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by Covid-19.

Building on the three-week delay to exams to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- **more generous grading than usual**, in line with national outcomes from 2020;
- students receiving **advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels** to focus revision;
- **exam aids** - like formula sheets - provided in some exams to give students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- **additional exams** to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation;
- **a new expert group** to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

Students taking vocational and technical qualifications will also see adaptations to ensure parity between general and vocational qualifications.

The Government has also developed a series of contingency measures with Ofqual:

- **If a student misses all their assessments in a subject**, they will have the opportunity to sit a contingency paper held shortly after the main exams.
- In the extreme case **where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers**, then a validated teacher informed assessment can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed.

The Government will set out further detail on this process, and on adaptations to exams, in the new year. Parents who wish to read the full release on 3rd December can do so by clicking on this [link](#).

The official end to the scheduled examinations is 2nd July. However, the DfE have announced that the examination contingency period will run to 16th July. For this reason, parents are advised to avoid booking any holidays before the end of term.

CHRISTMAS CARDS...



“The risk of spreading Covid-19 from sending Christmas cards is minimal, a virologist from the University of Leicester has said.

Dr Julian Tang has advised it is safe to send Christmas cards this year to friends and loved ones, as the risk of Covid-19 infection is “low”.

“The Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Leicester and Clinical Virologist, advised that Christmas cards and other similar objects that could potentially carry the virus pose a "minimal risk" of infection because transmission of the virus through these means is poor.

If people are concerned however, they should **wash their hands after opening cards, and avoid touching their mouths, eyes or noses** to minimise infection risk.

Dr Tang said: "People shouldn't worry about sending Christmas cards to friends and loved ones this year and spreading more than just festive cheer - sending cards presents a low risk of infection from COVID-19.

"Epidemiologically, we know that this virus does not transmit much via surfaces, so the risk of infection remains minimal - especially given the journey the card has to take through the postal system." "

Source: <https://www.itv.com/news/central/2020-11-25/sending-christmas-cards-wont-lead-to-covid-spread-says-leicester-academic>

Thursday, 26th November, 2020

Alternatively, you may want to encourage your son or daughter to send an e-card, donating money to a charity of their choice.



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