

VJJ/HEV

17 June 2021



Dear Parent and Carers

As you may be aware, we are now seeing a rapid rise in COVID 19 infections in the local area; these are linked to the Delta variant. There is also increasing concerns about the spread amongst younger age groups and the potential impact, not just on schools, but also on the wider community.

Attached is a letter from Colin Cox, Director of Public Health for Cumbria explaining the current situation. I have also attached a guide for parents on when people should be tested for COVID 19.

Local public health advice is now that secondary schools should reinstate the wearing of face coverings for everyone in school in communal areas, including corridors, dining areas, the common room and staff room. We have therefore made the decision to reintroduce the wearing of face coverings at Caldew School from Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. These are compulsory for all students except those who are medically exempt. If your child is exempt, they should bring in their pass or a letter explaining the reasons. It is not compulsory for students to wear masks in classrooms at the moment.

I know this will be disappointing to some of you but I have taken this decision as I believe that with the increase in infection rates locally and the increased transmissibility of the Delta variant, it will help to make our school a safer place. Our other protective measures will remain in place.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about the importance of students doing their twice weekly Lateral Flow Test. Lateral Flow testing is an important measure in reducing transmission as it identifies people who have high levels of the virus and are most infectious. Students should be tested on Monday and Thursday mornings before school and the results emailed to [student.testing@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:student.testing@caldew.cumbria.sch.uk) and registered with NHS Test and Trace. Students can also be tested in school if they do not want to carry out home testing.

Thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Vicki Jackson  
Headteacher