



**Villa Real School**  
*together we achieve*

Villa Real Road,  
Consett,  
Co. Durham. DH8 6BH  
Headteacher – Jill Bowe  
Deputy Head – Louise Burns  
School No 7028  
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10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy New Year and hope you are all safe and well. Good luck and take care to many of you that are poorly with Covid. Situation in school is that 14 staff are absent from school with COVID plus other staff absent with other ill health issues reflecting high levels of community transmission over Christmas and New Year. We also have a number of students who have been unable to return to school because they too have Covid. This has led to some classes having to join together in the hall socially distanced. We have updated our risk assessment in line with the latest Public Health and government advice but would ask if you could support us with the following so we can risk assess early in the morning:

- email us or ring as early as possible if your child is going to be absent
- check with your child's medics if they are safe to be in if they were previously CEV so we can organise remote education if safer
- ensure if your child tolerates lateral flow tests to test at home 3 times a week - Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- ensure your child wears clean outer clothes daily excluding coat
- ensure your child wears a mask if appropriate and in Secondary classes
- ensure your child's hands are washed before and after school

Due to the ongoing pressures with staffing this does mean we will risk assess daily and may have to cancel trips at the last minute, we will try to still facilitate where we can. If the situation worsens, we may need to return some classes to Remote Education for a short period of time. How we will choose classes will depend on which staff are absent, as some staff are medically trained for specific classes or pupils. Team Teach staff are also for specific classes or pupils. We must ensure that the ratios of staff to pupils are appropriate and safe with the right skill mix in school. We have managed to block book 2 suitably experienced supply staff but are struggling on a daily basis to get any other supply staff. We have also accepted voluntary support from teachers refreshing their skills who have a clear DBS. We are again limiting visitors to those who are fully vaccinated, have clear lateral flow and are essential for your child's schooling.



E mail: [villareal@villareal.durham.sch.uk](mailto:villareal@villareal.durham.sch.uk)

Web Site: [www.villarealschool.co.uk](http://www.villarealschool.co.uk)

Thank you for your support and understanding at this very difficult time. We will endeavour to avoid disruption to your child's education wherever possible.

Yours Sincerely,

Jill Bowe  
Headteacher



Mrs JE Bowe  
Headteacher



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