



Featherstone Academy

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Dear parents and carers,

I know that we all hoped that by the start of 2022, the COVID pandemic would be behind us. This unfortunately continues not to be the case due to significantly increasing numbers of positive cases. This is severely impacting our staffing and we are doing everything we possibly can to remain open for all year groups across the school. It may mean that the support within your child's class looks different or that you notice a shuffle of staff; all of these are temporary.

Urgent and essential information for all parents

As a proactive measure and to continue to ensure that school remains open and fully functional, a Trust-wide decision has been made that all schools within UWMAT, including Featherstone Academy, **will revert back into bubbles. This could last up until half term but will be under constant review.** These will not be quite so tight as they were previously, with some crossover and some staff working across bubbles. Decisions have also been made around after school clubs which will impact parents. **Please see below changes that may impact parents and children:**

- Children mixing across bubbles, particularly inside, should be avoided wherever possible
- Assemblies will not go ahead
- Dance Club, Science Club, Drama/Performing Arts club, Zumba/games and Dodgeball club will not be able to go ahead. This is a priority that we want to have back in our school and am so sorry that this change follows on from communication last week confirming they will continue
- Jigsaws Club will continue. This will only include children from Featherstone Academy and, where possible, children will be kept in year group bubbles
- Children will return to eating lunch within the classroom – this may involve some adaptation to the school menu to facilitate this
- Before school and after school academic classes will continue as they are within one year group
- Entry/exit and timetable for the school day will currently remain the same
- Staff to wear masks when not child facing/teaching
- Activities involving parents within school will not be able to ahead (privately arranged meetings can still continue with face masks and distancing)
- Wider professionals can still come into school providing a negative COVID test to the office
- All government guidance regarding school attendance and COVID will be followed and if your child tests positive and remain well, they will be provided with learning to match learning within school

It is so difficult to be writing yet another communication to parents like this where I feel it has an impact on the quality of our school offer, but it is unavoidable at the moment and will look to gradually re-introduce elements at the first available opportunity. If anyone would like more information or would like to have a further conversation around this please do let me know and I will always make the time

Kind regards
Adam Gatrad