



## **Rossall School Update - UK Lockdown with Schools Remaining Open**

The UK Government announced yesterday that England would be entering a limited national lockdown from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December. This lockdown is very different to the one that the UK and many other countries across the globe endured earlier this year.

**The key difference this time is that the UK Government has committed to ensuring that *all* schools, colleges and universities will remain open, alongside other essential services.**

Yesterday evening, the Prime Minister powerfully stated his commitment to ensuring that young people do not miss out on more of their education. This commitment has received unanimous support from all political parties within the UK and it is reflected in the policies of our European neighbours. There is a general understanding that the psychological and emotional impact of denying children the opportunity to attend school is deeply damaging and would result in a 'lost generation' from both an educational and economic perspective.

As a School we fully support this new, less restrictive, lockdown because it enables us to continue to provide an education within a national and local context that is focussed upon minimising risk and bringing the R rate down. At Rossall, with significant safety measures and risk assessments in place, your children can continue to enjoy meeting with friends as well as taking part in a variety of school activities whilst also benefiting from the best quality of learning that comes from class-based lessons.

**At Rossall, therefore, our focus will continue to be upon ensuring an excellent education for our children within the context of the safe environment we have created for them.**

It is worth noting that during the lockdown in April and May, Rossall continued to operate safely and we remained open to boarders and the children of key workers throughout.

### **International and Domestic Travel**

**For the next four weeks, people are encouraged to remain at home unless travelling for work or for education. Consequently, it is not permissible to travel abroad on holiday but an exemption exists for those who are travelling for work-related reasons or for educational purposes.**

Additionally, the Prime Minister has confirmed that once the lockdown has ended, the Tier system will be reinstated with a view to ensuring that families are able to enjoy Christmas together. Flight operators have confirmed that airports will remain open and flights will continue throughout this short lockdown, but with a slightly reduced service. A full service is due to resume from Thursday 3rd December.

### **The Local Context**

There is really good news locally as the R rate is now decreasing on the Fylde where Rossall is situated. As you know, Rossall is located in an area which has been under Tier 3 restrictions for a number of weeks and it is now clear that these measures have already brought the transmission rate (R value) down, whilst allowing some semblance of normal life to continue.

The suite of measures that Rossall has put in place will continue to ensure the wellbeing of all of our pupils and staff until the arrival of a much awaited vaccine.



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**It is hugely reassuring to note that since the emergence of this pandemic in February (nine months ago) all members of our community have remained entirely safe and well.**

Obviously, we all know that children are extremely unlikely to experience COVID-19 related symptoms, nevertheless, we believe that the extensive measures that we have put in place enable us to operate within a context which provides parents, staff and pupils with absolute confidence and a sense of reassurance.

A reminder, these measures include:

- social distancing
- the wearing of face covers in all internal areas of the school
- the use of hundreds of hand sanitisers located throughout the school
- an efficient and effective track and trace system
- routine medical screening/testing of all returning boarders
- daily medical checks and thermal imaging scanning for all pupils and staff
- separate seating within classrooms for day and boarding pupils
- enhanced cleaning regimes
- separate dining and toilet/washing facilities for day and boarding pupils

We keep these measures under constant review and we will not hesitate to put in place additional measures should there be good reason to do so. However, thus far, all evidence would suggest that we are safeguarding the wellbeing of our children very successfully. I would like to thank all parents for abiding by government guidelines and behaving in a responsible manner which has served to reduce the risk for all within school and the wider community.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their incredible support, kind messages and understanding during this period. Your confidence in all that we are doing is very much appreciated.

If you have any questions or queries about any of the aspects outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact Lucy Barnwell on [l.barnwell@rossall.org.uk](mailto:l.barnwell@rossall.org.uk).

Our boarders are back and we are now looking forward to an action packed second half of the term. We will be communicating later this week with regards to Christmas and travel arrangements for all boarders. Please be assured that we will be entirely flexible and we have arrangements in place to suit those who wish to stay and enjoy a special Christmas here with us, as well as those who would like to travel home and spend Christmas with family.

Kindest regards,

**Jeremy Quartermain**  
Headmaster

