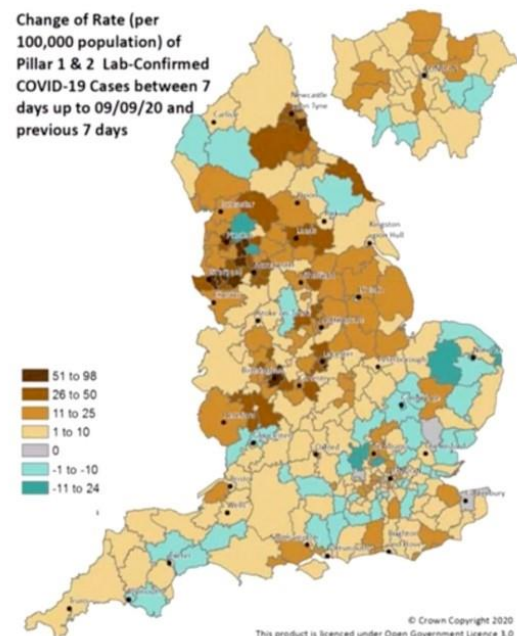
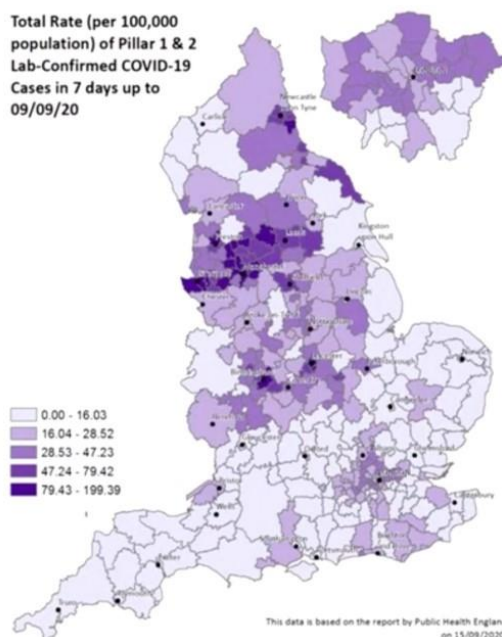




Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all well tonight. As you may have done, we watched with interest the briefing today by Professor Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance which was a tough watch. They described the UK “turning a corner” and should this “continue along the path, the number of fatalities directly from Covid could rise on an exponential curve” along with a visual that showed us that the numbers of cases, even in *our local area of the New Forest*, are now rising (see below).

Geographical spread of COVID-19 in England



You know that thanks to your children, my colleagues and all of you, we have made a superb start back together, but we want to take this opportunity, in the light of this briefing, to reinforce our message about face coverings in and around the school.

As you know, your children are working in year group zones, and we do all we can to keep the groupings as separate as we can throughout the school day, including at social times. But even within zoning, face coverings are important, for those able to wear them, and this was emphasised in today's briefing.

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On the 9th September we wrote to you all ([click link](#)) about our expectations for the wearing of these in our school community: every member of the Noadswood family who is able to – students and adults alike – will wear face coverings in the following situations:

- In all communal areas inside the school buildings
- When we're moving between lessons in corridors
- Any time we're out and about in corridors
- In the canteen queues
- When changing for PE (Students should remove masks and put them back in their plastic bags or in the bin provided for this purpose before going off to their activity)
- Anytime indoors when we can't maintain the appropriate social distancing

We then added that we'd encourage the wearing of face coverings outside, anywhere where things get more crowded within zones.

We've been grateful for how many students have been following this guidance, however there are still a great many students who have a mask, are ok about wearing one but nonetheless have not routinely been wearing them - we know this, because when we ask explicitly, people rummage about for them and put them on.

With the stronger message coming from the chief scientific officer and chief medical officer today, and with your and our overwhelming commitment to each other and to our school, we ask for your continued support in helping us reiterate the importance of this for students, families, our staff and the whole local community.

The message today was clear: our expectation of *every one* of our students and adults who feel able to (of course, taking into consideration those with genuine reasons why they will not be doing so) is, definitely, an important way that we can all protect ourselves and those around us.

So we ask for your continued support with this tonight, as we continue to do our all to preserve what's just a joy to see every day in school at the present time. We will continue to give regular requests and reminders, not to hassle or enforce, but to ensure that everyone ok to do so puts on their face coverings at times that have been shown to help, in the best guidance any of us have got to work with.

Kathryn Marshall and the Noadswood Leadership Team