



THE PREMIER ACADEMY

EATON MILL SITE

CEO: Warren Harrison

Saffron Street, Mossmans Close,
Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK2 3AH

Tel: 01908 373621 Fax: 01908 367324

e-mail: admin@tpamk.co.uk



17 September 2021

LTP 292

Dear Parents/ Carers

School Progress Update

Children in Key Stage 1 are already being sent extra catch-up materials to complete at home which many of you have appreciated and I would like to thank you for the positive feedback.

Children in Key Stage 2 will, before we break up on 1 October, receive a bespoke pack geared to their specific needs. This can and should be worked through at your own pace, however it will benefit the children to complete regular assignments.

I've Given Up Watching The News

I am seriously concerned about the number of people telling me that they are sick of watching the news on TV. Believe me when I say that I appreciate why this is happening, however it is important that we at school never neglect details. There is a great quote from Colin Powell that goes, "When everyone's mind is dulled or distracted the leader must be doubly vigilant."

In a week where Italy has followed France in deciding not to pay workers who are not double jabbed and one of our NHS vaccine administrators declared herself an anti-vaxxer, I feel duty bound to share the following information with you in graph format.

Four of our staff caught Covid-19 in July and it was bad. It was really bad for two of them and that was with all of them double vaccinated. Only one experienced mild symptoms; they are however suffering from long covid. In fact, three of the four have long Covid.

Tuesday's News

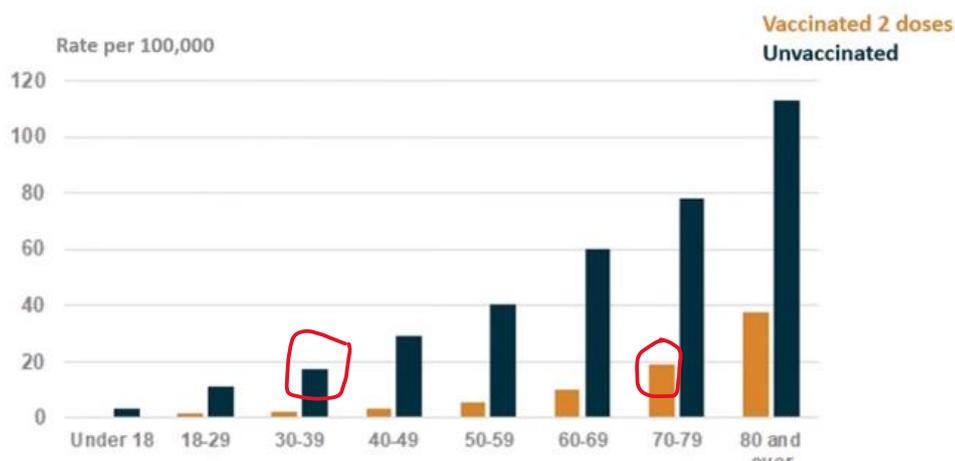
As you know the English government has decided to make the opening of the economy its main priority in the hope that the vaccines will continue to be effective and that the virus won't mutate to a more deadly variant, whilst other countries are still operating with masks and covid passports in order to minimise deaths.

I think the data released on Tuesday 14 September was the most compelling we have seen so far with regard to the success of the vaccine but also the most concerning with regard to the potential downturn if people do not get vaccinated.

Chris Whitty was visibly shaken at the Tuesday briefing by the level of anti-vaccine propagation that was coming from some stars and accused some people of spreading anti-vaccine theories maliciously.

I think the following data says it all.

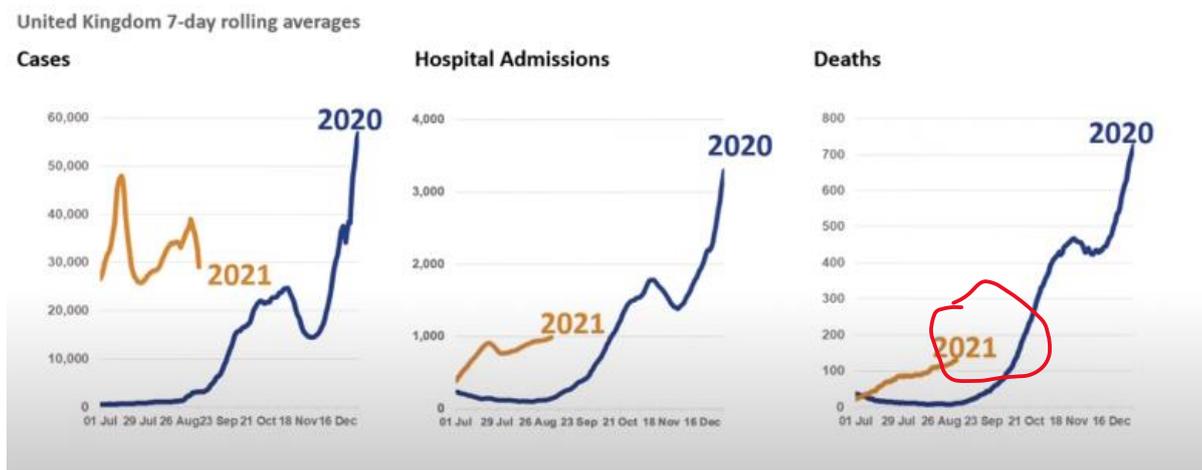
COVID-19 cases coming to emergency care within 28 days of a positive test, that resulted in an overnight inpatient admission, by vaccination status, England, between 9 August and 5 September 2021



I may not have the steadiest drawing hand in the world, but I can read a graph and this says to me that someone unvaccinated in their 30's is running the same risk of being admitted to hospital as someone in their 70's who is vaccinated. And as for the 18-19 age group, well it really is a no brainer.

Another graph showed that **not one** vaccinated person under 50 had died from Covid-19 between 9 August and 5 September. It also showed that everyone who had died was unvaccinated.

And finally:



You can see above that we are entering the autumn with more cases, hospital admissions and deaths than there were at this time last year which has to be of concern. You can also see if you look at my dismal red BDC that the number of deaths began to upturn last year towards then end of September / beginning of October.

At TPA we are watching this data closely and **have decided to reintroduce mask wearing for visitors / people coming into the Atrium.** We have also taken the decision to move parents' evenings online.

We always said that we would relax slowly, and we are not afraid of reintroducing more stringent precautions if it means keeping the school open and people safe.

The governors are meeting on 28 September with regard to any major changes to current provision and to those people who have asked about packed lunches I can assure that this is on the agenda.

Covid Cases At TPA

In the interest of transparency, I feel that it only right to share with you the number of positive cases we are having on a fortnightly basis. In the past two weeks four of our children have tested positive for Covid-19 however as far as we can tell (difficult without everyone regularly testing) they have all been isolated cases and have not led to secondary infections or indeed an outbreak.

A Local Secondary School's Status

A local secondary school hasn't been as fortunate and has reintroduced mask wearing and bubbles due to the number of infections. It has also asked for every child in school to have a PCR test this weekend.

Parents' Evening

We have invested in some software which will allow you to book your parent's evening slot online and then to log in for a meeting. More information will be sent out in due course and the meetings are likely to be during the first three weeks after the holiday as we want to give everyone a decent time slot.

Fact Of The Week

Incredibly, scientists have only understood why viruses spread more quickly in winter than they do in summer for 11 years. Prior to 2010 common theories such as, "*we spend more time indoors mixing more closely with other people,*" or "*in the short days of winter, without much sunlight, we may run low on Vitamin D, which helps power the body's immune system, making us more vulnerable to infection*" were often considered the reasons and there is no doubt that there is some truth that these factors do not help, however the real reason is down to the laws of thermodynamics.

Cold air can carry less water vapour before it reaches the "dew point" and falls as rain. So, while the weather outside may seem wetter, the air itself is drier as it loses the moisture. And a steady stream of research over the past few years has shown that these dry conditions seem to offer the perfect environment for the flu virus to flourish. In fact, given the right conditions, say that of a British winter climate, it can spread like wildfire! If Bing Crosby were still alive maybe he could record his Christmas hit and substitute White for Mild and Dry this year!

Joke Of The Week

('A moth goes to see a podiatrist' joke by Norm Macdonald, who tragically passed away this week aged 61)

"What's the problem?" the podiatrist asks.

"What's the problem? Where do I begin? I go to work for Gregory Illinivich, and all day long, I work. Honestly, doc, I don't even know what I'm doing anymore. I don't even know if Gregory Illinivich knows.

"He only knows that he has power over me, and that seems to bring him happiness. But I don't know, I wake up in a malaise, and I walk here and there... at night I...I sometimes wake up and I turn to some old lady in my bed that's on my arm," the moth says.

The insect adds: "A lady that I once loved, doc. I don't know where to turn to. My youngest, Alexandria, she fell in the...in the cold of last year. The cold took her down, as it did many of us.

"And my other boy, and this is the hardest pill to swallow, doc. My other boy, Gregarro Ivinalitavitch... I no longer love him.

"As much as it pains me to say, when I look in his eyes, all I see is the same cowardice that I... that I catch when I take a glimpse of my own face in the mirror."

The moth continues: "If only I wasn't such a coward, then perhaps...perhaps I could bring myself to end this hellish facade once and for all.

"Doc, sometimes I feel like a spider, even though I'm a moth, just barely hanging on to my web with an everlasting fire underneath me. I'm not feeling good."

And so the doctor says, "Moth, man, you're troubled. But you should be seeing a psychiatrist. Why on earth did you come here?"

To which the moth replies: "Cause the light was on."

One Last Thing

BDC stands for badly drawn circle!

Stay safe, stay classy

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Harrison', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Warren Harrison
Chief Executive Officer