

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the incident of a notified case of Covid 19 to the school on Friday I would like to reassure you all that all guidance and procedures are being followed.

On our return to school the Government guidelines encouraged us to increase our class / group bubbles to whole year group bubbles to enable a greater number of children to school. We had kept to our class/group bubbles whilst in the building and had increased this to year group bubble operation when the children were outside, for play time etc.

However following the incident on Friday we will be making changes to our operations.

As from Monday 14th September:

Bubbles will be operated in classes/groups when both inside and outside. This means the daily mile, which had been timetabled so no more than two groups were running the circuit in the same direction following each other will now be further timetabled and Year 2 will use the Secret Garden (barriers removed) and Year 1 classes will be separated in both areas and timings.

The Reception Learning Garden has been sectioned off to areas limited outside each class base to limit mixing of groups. The sections are created using plastic barrier tape as a visual boundary so in the event of an evacuation the tape can easily be cut / removed.

The timing of lunches has been slightly changed to allow classes to move in bubbles into and within the hall and outside to segregated areas.

Lunchtime play, will change in that the playground will be sectioned off with barriers into class bubbles, with an adult assigned to each class. The children will now not have the opportunity for running around at lunchtime as will need to be confined to areas with more static games led by the adult.

We are extremely fortunate that all classes / bases have external doors for movement around the site to limit movement through corridors.

We are also very fortunate in that Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes have toilets integral to the classes. Again to limit numbers and movement using them. Year 2 have 2 sets of toilets available in the corridor, again numbers accessing are monitored and limited. There will continue to be an increased cleaning regime of toilet areas.

All classrooms are equipped with PPE if necessary and a designated room has been allocated should anyone need to be isolated until collection by parent.

Classrooms are equipped with disinfectant and Milton sterilising solution for ongoing through the day increased cleaning regimes.

We are also encouraging anyone attending the site to wear a mask, we really would like all to follow this request for the sake of everyone.

Please be mindful of being early to collect and drop off children as there are more likely to be queues. We have put in our 'circuits' for adults to follow, these may seem rather restrictive but this is to slow the movement around the site to ensure everyone can remain at a safe distance from each other. We are all very busy people but your child's health and being able to keep school open is paramount in what we are trying to achieve. Please be respectful of our guidance and instructions, absolutely the majority of adults coming onto site are, but there has been a very small minority who

have been questioning this approach. Each school has tackled this situation differently as sites differ, some sites do not allow adults on site at all and others are using a times drop off and pick up. We have tried to be as flexible as possible in giving adults a 30 minute window to access the site – from 8.30am to 9.00am and from 3.00pm to 3.30pm. Please do not be too early or too late but this is when gates will be opening and closing.

We are in very difficult times and we are all trying our best to do what is right by following ever shifting guidance. I would like to assure you that we act very promptly and in line with guidance at all times. Unfortunately there is no precedent to this virus at this level so we need to work together to keep our school open and operating for the good of all.

We are dependent upon our community, you as parents and carers, to help to ensure we can achieve staying open. If you have symptoms please be tested, if your child has symptoms please have them tested. If you have been in close contact (current guidance states close contact for a sustained period of 15 minutes plus) with someone who has subsequently tested positive then please take precautions and be aware of any developing symptoms.

Phoning NHS 111 currently points you in the direction of the Government website to book an appointment for a test. We know that there are huge waiting lists and people being directed currently to London and Kent for testing. Please be aware of local testing areas – Short Street operate a walk in testing facility (8am to 8pm currently) and Southend Airport also provides a testing facility but this is on restricted days and hours. Both of these venues will need to have an appointment made prior to visiting.

My message is please err on the side of caution. There are some colds starting to develop and people are being tested which are coming back negative. There is no one simple guide to symptoms and some people are asymptomatic it would appear. So as much as we can do together to keep ourselves and our families and community safe is all I am asking that we do.

Thank you for your continuing support, together we can make this work.

Kind regards

Lisa Clark

Headteacher