11/01/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you all for your support during this time. I need to send this letter to explain why we are doing what we are doing and again asking for your help.

I don’t need to tell you about the seriousness of the situation that we find ourselves in. Schools are open but at reduced capacity. The new variant of the virus is much more transmissible than the original one so our own risk assessment has capped our numbers at 15 children per bubble, this is so that we can properly distance from each other and try to minimise transmission. It also cuts down on the number of people coming to school to drop off and pickup. We need to keep everyone safe.

We have been operating with a staggered arrival and pick up for a long time now. This has been worked out so that children can arrive safely and enter their classrooms. This means that in the morning there is a half hour slot during which a child can be dropped off. If you arrive late it means that children have to travel through school, passing more people than necessary. We understand that sometimes you may have an emergency that means you arrive late and we can accommodate this, however, recently we have noticed that some people are arriving late on a regular basis. If this continues we will refuse entry to your child and you will have to work at home for that day.

As before, if we have a confirmed positive case in school then we will have to close the bubble but as we have cut the numbers in each bubble then the number of children that need to isolate will be smaller. We ask too that if your child has a place in school please stick to the lockdown rules at home. You should not be meeting with any other families at home, inside or outside. Birthday parties and the like are breeding grounds for this virus which will then be brought into school.

The safest place for everyone right now is at home as per the instruction from the government. Guidance on which children may come to school has been open to interpretation however the Education minister was on the television over the weekend saying that if someone is at home then the safest place for a child is also at home. We have to ask for proof of your key worker status so that we can keep the numbers as low as we can. If you can keep your child at home, please do so.

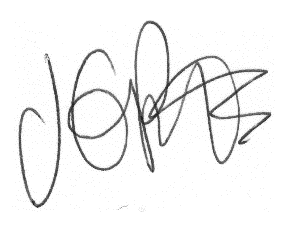
Our bubbles now are full and we have a waiting list for places in all year groups. All of our staff are at work, teaching bubbles in school and also doing the zoom sessions for those learning at home. This may mean that we may have to close bubbles if staff become ill.

It isn’t all bad news though; we are all blown away by the amount of work being produced by the children in school and at home. Well done to everyone who has found themselves back in home schooling mode, we know it isn’t easy for you. The government has given strict instructions to schools about the amount of work that we are expected to post for our home learners, 3 hours in KS1 and 4 hours in KS2. We completely understand that this will not be possible for many of you to do, particularly if you are also working from home. We have tried to timetable our Zoom sessions throughout the day so that if you have more than one child at home they can all access them at different times. Please don’t worry if the amount of work looks impossible for you to do – prioritise the maths and the English work and, if you have any more time, then do the rest.

I was moved by the number of children who signed up to our assembly on Friday afternoon. It was an emotional moment for me to see so many of them there and I’m sorry for those who tried to get on and couldn’t. I am working on a way this Friday for more people to be able to share some time together, I’ll send details later in the week.

Thank you again for your support as we try to steer a course through this strange time. It won’t last forever and can’t wait for the time when we can all safely be together again.

God bless,



Jacqui Potts

Headteacher