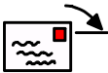




22nd September 2020



School reopening and communication changes



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued understanding and patience as we navigate these testing times together. I am writing for several reasons, first and foremost to further update you on our current situation and to provide some information about the way we intend to communicate moving forward.

Update

Despite our huge efforts to follow all the government guidance to keep everyone safe, the virus did manage to enter our building and I'm sorry to say that we have had, to date, a total of 10 confirmed cases of Covid 19. (9 staff and 1 student). Each individual case was reported immediately to Public Health England and we followed their guidance every step of the way.

Our first case was within the admin team which we managed to contain. The remaining 8 cases were all within our primary/connecting and responding bubble. Therefore, we know that our bubble system is working. However, the reason it was agreed that we close the whole school was two-fold. Firstly, the size of the outbreak was concerning and we wanted to keep the whole community safe. Secondly with the number of staff isolating for a variety of reasons this left us short staffed in secondary which made opening safely a real concern.

In discussion with Public Health England we are using the time the school is closed for the following:

- Making updates to the timetable so that no staff teach across bubbles. (This goes beyond the government guidance which states that staff can teach cross-bubble). This will hopefully mean in future that any closures will be limited to one bubble at a time.
- We are making some changes to the school environment such as clearer floor markings in many areas to demonstrate the 2m social distancing.
- There may also be a few changes in the car-park for parents who drop-off and collect to ensure social distancing is adhered to at all times.
- The school has also had a deep clean during closure.

One piece of advice received was that we need to keep the school closed for 14 days from when the last confirmed case was in the building. Unfortunately, this changes our re-opening date to **Thursday 1st October**. We appreciate that this is an extremely worrying time for our whole community and wish to reassure you that we are doing everything within our power to keep everybody safe.

Communication

We have always communicated with parents through letters. During this time of fast paced changes, we have found that this is not immediate enough and we need a way to get information out to parents more quickly. Therefore, we have bought into a system called 'Weduc' which is an online school communication system based around an app. You will receive information later this week explaining how to enrol. It is very important that **ALL PARENTS** use weduc as it will be our main way of communicating moving forward. You can access the app through a smartphone, tablet or computer. We will be able to support with this should you require it.



Thank you once again for your patience and understanding at this difficult time. It was a really hard decision to close the school, but one I feel was important to keep everyone safe. We look forward to welcoming everybody back into school on **Thursday 1st October**.

You should have also received your child's home learning pack in the post and will receive a phone call from your child's class teacher this week. If you need any further assistance or have further questions please do call the school reception on 0116 2894242. Debbie and Fran will do their best to help.



Take care. Stay safe.



Steph Beale
Principal