



Head's

Update

29th January 2021

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As ever, we are keen to communicate with you and keep you informed of the ever changing scenarios in schools, during these challenging times. I'm sure you will appreciate the hard work involved in keeping schools open to critical worker and vulnerable children, as well as providing remote learning to those children at home. We are extremely grateful for your ongoing cooperation, positivity and support through all of this.

Some of you may have seen in the press that the latest Department for Education guidance states that schools are now in a position to offer testing to their school-based staff on a regular basis. Our schools will be using 'rapid tests' twice a week on asymptomatic staff that have opted in, from Monday 25th January, in order for us to identify staff members that could be carrying the virus but are not showing symptoms. This will, potentially, help us reduce the spread of the virus and keep all of the members of our school community safer. Whilst identifying asymptomatic staff will help us reduce the spread of the virus, it may mean that there are more regular closures of school bubbles in the future. If a staff member tests positive, Public Health England may advise us to close the Bubble which means the children in the Bubble would need to isolate at home. Of course, we will do all that we can to avoid any further disruption. From a parental point, there is nothing you need to do, but we felt it was important to communicate this to you so you were fully aware of the steps our schools are taking to keep us safe and well.

This week, the Prime Minister also announced that schools will not fully open before the 8th March 2021. We are really disappointed that we are not able to have all of our children back into school after half term, as we miss them very much, however we recognise the important part we have to play in keeping the infection rates low. As a result, we will continue to provide remote learning to those learning from home, until we are notified of any change by the Government. We appreciate the pressure and difficulties that this puts onto parents but ask that you continue to support your children with learning from home as best you can, in order to reduce the long term impact upon their educational outcomes. We are keen to work with you and support in anyway we can, and will continue to contact all parents weekly so that you can share with us any difficulties you may have.

Stay Safe!

Mrs K O'Connor
Head Teacher