

25th November 2021

Dear Parents,

Our school term continues apace, with so much great learning happening across the classes. Last week Y2 enjoyed a fabulous visit to Waddesdon Manor; and the whole school considered ideas and actions around Anti Bullying. The children were very clear that it is not appropriate to tease others, and how important it is to treat everyone with respect and consideration. I was very proud of their thoughtfulness and the ideas they shared in assembly.

I am sure you are aware that – in line with rising numbers in primary schools nationally – some of our children have tested positive for Covid-19. As more of the older population are vaccinated, the virus surge has moved to the younger children. I would like to assure you that we are following all Guidance from the Department for Education, and from Public Health England. I have been in communication with our local Public Health advisor to ensure that we are also implementing their recommendations. The Government advice to adults on the management of the virus is available on the internet, and I appreciate those parents who have taken a more cautious approach whilst still following the official guidance.

I sent a message out last week to all parents which I would like to reiterate – ‘please will all parents be particularly alert to any of the three key symptoms of coronavirus (a continuous cough, a temperature, loss of taste or smell), and, should your child show any of these, they should immediately isolate and have a PCR test.’ Please then let us know the result of the PCR test as this affects the attendance codes we are required to submit. Thank you. The medical advice is that the virus takes a few days to manifest, so it is advisable to wait to test siblings who appear well, as testing too early will show a negative PCR when the child may well be incubating the viral infection. If any class has a number of children who have been confirmed to have the virus, then we will advise the other parents of that class regarding additional precautionary measures they may wish to take. This is in line with official Guidance. As you will be aware from earlier communications, the school no longer has any involvement in Track and Trace, though I understand the NHS teams will be in touch with you on receipt of a positive diagnosis through PCR test results.

I would like to remind all parents that LFT testing is not a requirement for Primary age children, though some parents may wish to test their child if they have been in contact with a child who has subsequently developed symptoms. This can be helpful in stopping the spread as many children have the virus asymptotically. A positive LFT should be followed by a PCR test. If that test is negative, then the child should return to school. We would also request that, at this time, if your child is unwell in any way they do not attend school until they are fully well. We are experiencing all the usual childhood winter coughs and colds at this time, and after the long period of lack of social mixing these are particularly virulent this year.

We have chosen in school to introduce some additional measures to try to help to keep everyone as safe as we can at this time, including not holding whole school assemblies at present. The official guidance is that the children are allowed to mix between classes when outdoors as it is much lower risk than indoor contact, so break and lunchtimes remain as usual at present. Outdoor equipment is also viewed as very low risk. Our risk assessment is required to take into account any possible impact on the emotional and developmental

well-being of the children, not just prevention of any viral transfer risk. Our Risk Assessment is on the front page of our website, and is reviewed regularly. As the weather is turning noticeably colder and all windows and internal doors in the school are open to facilitate excellent ventilation, your child may wear an additional layer under their uniform so they remain warm.

Although the picture is changing daily, we are looking forward to welcoming Y2 parents to the Y2 performance of 'Bundle of Joy' at 2:15pm on Friday, 3rd December. This may need to be a socially distanced seating occasion, and we would request that you wear a face covering as it is an indoor gathering. The children have been practising and are very excited to show you the result of their hard work. The following Friday it is the turn of Y6 to take the stage, and we look forward to seeing Y6 parents at 2:15pm.

I would like to thank all parents who have made their voluntary Learning Contribution of £10 per term. This money funds all the resources for Curriculum Enrichment, and for most visitors to the school. (I know Y4 thoroughly enjoyed their virtual author visit.) If you are able to help the learning by contributing, but this has slipped down the to-do list, please do pay via E-schools at your convenience. Thank you.

The PTA orders for tea towels have been met. I do hope you are thrilled with them, and I would like to thank the PTA for their efforts. The Christmas Card orders will be fulfilled soon. I know that the children are already excited about the discos on 10th December. I do hope that those parents who booked for the Wreath Making evening on 8th will also have a wonderful time. The doors of the village will look particularly special this year I expect.

As in previous years, the children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their school jumper or cardigan for the last week of term – beginning on Monday 13th December. That Monday is Christmas Craft Day – always a highlight of the festive season! It does seem slightly scary that we only have three more weeks of this term – Christmas will be here sooner than we expect. We do currently plan to take the children to St Giles for a Carol Service on the last day of term. This was not possible last year, so we have our fingers crossed – it is always such a special occasion. I trust that your festive preparations will go smoothly – after last year's lockdown over Christmas I feel this year will be even more special.

Attached to this message is the school's online safety at home information. Please take time to read this.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher