



Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you so much for working with us to ensure that our community is as COVID safe as possible.

There has been an unprecedented increase in COVID testing and staff or children being required to isolate. It is now the case that many schools across Medway are closed, as numbers of coronavirus cases rise across the South East.

I would like to reassure you that the same stringent protective measures are in place and we continue to review our practices in line with the government's guidance to schools in order to keep everyone safe. We implemented stringent protocols in September and these are all available on The Risk Assessment which is on the website.

If we are informed of a positive case within our school community, we are required to take the following steps:

- We liaise with a dedicated Department for Education advice line who will support us to identify anyone who needs to isolate against specific criteria of distance and time frames.
- It is important that we inform those children and staff as quickly as possible. We will message you via parent mail or SMS message if this affects your child's class. If you miss the message, we will follow up with a phone call from school as soon as possible.
- If you do not get a message from school, then your child should attend school as normal. The guidance states that other members of the household including siblings do not need to isolate unless symptomatic, so these children can also continue coming to school.
- Track and Trace criteria states that staff or children only have to isolate if they have been in close contact with a person who tests positive, within the 2 days prior to when that person developed symptoms. This means that even if staff have covered a class during the week, they may not necessarily need to isolate. It also means that if someone becomes symptomatic on a Monday morning, the class may not need to isolate if their last contact was on the previous Friday.
- If a class is required to isolate, they will be set work on Tapestry (Reception to Year 3) Teams (Year 4-6) with Zoom or Teams assemblies to support their learning and reduce the disruption to their education.
- If an individual needs to isolate, we will provide work for them linked to the class learning at the time.

As you can imagine, the current increase in cases across Medway is having a significant impact on staffing in the school. The team have continued to do a magnificent job in ensuring that the school operates effectively, but we may come to a point where this is no longer possible. Our aim is for all children to be in school full time, but it is important that this is achieved safely.

However, if levels of staffing reach a critical point, we will have to make changes to the running of the school in order to be able to remain open. Following this, we would then have to look at closing classes and providing a rota across the week to reduce the number of classes requiring staff to cover.

Only once we have exhausted all of these options would we make the decision to close the school entirely, and return to the virtual school we created in March. Any decisions to isolate classes or change the school day as

outlined here, may need to be made quickly and at short notice, so please keep an eye on Face book, Parent mail and the Website.

Infection rates have risen sharply over the last two weeks and maintaining social distancing protocols is a key line of defence against Covid-19. So, you too can help keep our school running smoothly, by continuing to practice social distancing on site, with one parent accompanying children to drop off and pick up, by adhering to the times issued so that people do not gathering at the gates.

Please continue to email or phone the office to message staff and avoid trying to speak to staff at the end of the day. It is also essential that we all do not mix with other households, including with families who have children in the same 'bubbles' at school at this time of lockdown.

We will do everything we can to keep children in school full time, but I wanted to give you as much notice as possible of our plans in case we do need to make any changes to the school day. Working together will keep our school operating effectively and safely, so that we can provide the best education and learning experience for our children

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Catherine Logan