



4th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome the children back today – with the COVID rate so high I was not sure what the new term would bring. Below you will see information for start of term including health and safety.

Health & Safety

Whilst I cannot insist on everyone wearing masks on school premises, it would be much appreciated if you did. Staff will all be wearing masks on both sites in central areas and while greeting children and handing them over at the start and end of day. If you need to speak to a member of staff, you must wear a mask or remain at least 2 metres away from them. You should not enter either building without a mask. If you are exempt please wear your exemption lanyard and staff will be happy to help but social distancing should be maintained.

Staffing and Bubbles

Current Government Guidance suggests that children can be taught in larger groups if necessary, and schools can bring in supply staff – obviously, we need to protect our own staff as much as possible and make sure your children have their own adults with them in class. I have spoken to children and staff today about the importance of being as safe as we can and following strict handwashing / sanitising routines, cleaning surfaces and touch points and we discussed why staff are wearing masks. Please try to reinforce this at home including children covering their mouth when coughing and washing hands afterwards. Each site will be its own bubble and we will try to stay on site (most staff and children for most days) as much as possible. Unfortunately, Tuesday Teatime will have to take place at Church Street site, so please only use this club if necessary.

Isolating and Testing

Current Guidance states that pupils identified as close contacts of people with positive cases do not need to self-isolate while awaiting test results unless they are unwell. If your child is unwell please keep them away from school – COVID or not as obviously usual bugs colds and sickness are still around. The Guidance is very confusing so ring school or the school mobile 07342 075478 if you have a question.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to collect children or take them home due to protecting staff from infection and the larger number of children who are absent. Should your child need to stay at home with you they should use the log ins they have been given, monthly grid (which will be updated more frequently if necessary) and staff will contact them by phone or TEAMS each day they are absent to support them with work. Initially this contact will be by phone and then TEAMS sessions will be organised. It is very important that children continue to learn whether they are in school or not, obviously as long as they are well enough to do so.

Bug Club

It is very important your child has access to their Bug Club account at home and school. I know we have some very excited children who got a tablet from Santa to help them do this! Staff will be contacting you within the next week if your child is not accessing their Bug Club account at home to help with any log in issues. The progress children make with regular reading is huge so please do ask us if you need any help.

Regards

Marie-Louise Binks

Mrs Marie-Louise Binks
Head Teacher