

Simon A Wood – Executive Headteacher

Tuesday 15th September, 2020

Working Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I thank all of you who have supported our mammoth efforts to ensure we keep all of your children safe. This has been much appreciated by all staff – who continue to work tirelessly - including over evenings and weekends, to ensure we remain open across the whole school and ensure education for your children begins to recover in the way that is much needed.

Attached to this letter is an overview of how you can support us, and in turn we can stay open, when your child/ren is/are unwell – I do hope this is useful.

We do need you to ALL follow it, as not doing so risks the health, safety and wellbeing of all of us.

Along with all the already shared measures in place, we have:

- Adjusted PE, Daily Mile and Forest Schools timetables to ensure we meet all childrens' needs – apologies to those of you who were irritated and expressed this on Facebook, or similar. We did share that we all needed to remain flexible and this still stands. **We are trying our best, and succeeding, against a backdrop of increased anger, negativity and aggression towards us. None of this is acceptable.**
- Streamlined entry and exit at the beginning and end of each day – you are responsible and accountable for your own social distancing whilst queueing – we have put many support systems in place to help you and your children, and most of you are supporting us with this. **To those who feel it is okay to 'push in', try and 'jump the queue', and 'pushing other parents/carers', or to just not queue at all, please know this is most unacceptable and a very small minority of you are putting all others' health and safety at risk.**
- The **'rule of six'** which was imposed nationally yesterday applies to all of you, outside school. We are becoming increasingly aware that **at the same time** as us being spoken to most disrespectfully by some parents/carers they are meeting up with many friends and family, and being part of several households all at the same time. **This is not acceptable and compromises all we are doing.** If we are made aware of this with evidence – most of which is social media - or your children's conversations with us, we will, respectfully, challenge you and we may ask you to self-isolate, or seek a test for anyone who shows any symptoms.

Whilst writing about 'testing', I wish to share my frustration that so many of you are experiencing – I do not have an answer for this, and can only apologise. We have, as has the Trust, challenged the DfE, and their response is most unhelpful. They simply acknowledged that they were also aware of this.

In reality - Yesterday we had 102 children absent – either because they were unwell, or showed symptoms of COVID19. **The guidance will be followed every time** – ANY sign of ANY symptom and you will be required to self-isolate your household and book a test. **This is not negotiable.** Nor is you self-isolating your children for a day or two with symptoms, and then, because you cannot get tests, returning your children to school - we will simply call you and ask you to take them home.

THIS IS FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF YOU ALL – I would not wish for one family to begin to blame another for causing illness of others – this is to protect you all.

We all need to continue to work together, as we have done since March – this pandemic is going to be with us for some time.

I would like to close by reiterating that I take the health, safety and wellbeing of your children incredibly seriously – right now, for headteachers across the country, this is the most challenging aspect of our role.

We don't seem to get much right (judging by the lack of positive feedback and smiles at the gates) and almost everyone is very quick to judge us – publicly, and on social media. Thank you to those of you who have feedback – this is always appreciated.

I couldn't be prouder of the way the staff team – including our caterers and cleaners - have responded to this challenge. Almost everything we knew has had to change in some way.

We continue to refine this every day – for one reason only – **your childrens' safety.**

Regards

Simon A Wood – Executive Headteacher