



Happy New Year and welcome back to school!



In these difficult times of ongoing COVID concerns, I thought it wise to communicate the school position on managing the risks posed by outbreaks.

I appreciate that there may be parental concerns around the new measures being put in place by the government, and the requirements on schools to maintain a COVID secure environment for staff and pupils. I urge parents to support our measures, even if there is an element of inconvenience, as a widespread outbreak would potentially close classes, or ultimately the school. Please be reassured that we are following LA and Public Health advice, which is regularly updated.

### **School will:**

- carefully monitor pupil health and alert parents to any COVID symptoms,
- send children home for a PCR if they are showing symptoms- this is in the interests of
- protecting the wider school community,
- ensure contingency staffing plans are in place. This might mean your child's class is covered by teaching assistants for a short time.
- inform parents when there is a positive COVID case in school,
- provide online learning for all isolating (but well) children,
- maintain contact with parents via the class email system,
- provide online learning for all children affected by class closures,
- maintain COVID secure organisation at all times,
- close classes/ the school if there are staffing issues, but only as a last resort.

### **Parents should:**

- keep poorly children at home, and obtain a PCR test; symptoms now include sore throats,
- fatigue and headaches,
- ensure that COVID positive children take lateral flow tests on day 6 and 7 onwards to enable them to return to school as soon as possible. Two negative tests are required,
- ensure that children take a lateral flow test for 7 days before school if someone in the house is positive. This does not apply to under 5s,
- email school with NHS confirmation of children's positive lateral flow/PCR test,
- support children who are isolating to complete online learning if they are well enough. Details are on the class pages on the school website. This will also apply if the class is closed due to staffing shortage,
- not assume children 'just have a cold' as new variants are revealing a wider range of symptoms than first thought,
- continue to drop KS2 pupils at the school gates, and 'drop-and-go' for our younger children,
- reduce footfall on the school site by having only 1 family member at a time on the school run,
- make use of the admin email for urgent messages, as in the event of office staff shortages the phone may not be manned outside peak times.

## **January theme- Resilience**

During this month children will learn;

- that they can control their responses to challenging situations
- that there are a range of coping strategies that we can use
- to understand that everyone experiences problems from time to time
- that resilience is about working through challenging times.

Successful, independent, life-long learners need to be resilient. Resilience is our ability to recover from setbacks, face challenges, adapt well to change, and keep going in the face of adversity. In short, it is our ability to bounce back using skills we have mastered. Children also need to learn to manage age appropriate risks to develop their independence.

place2be.org.uk offer the following suggestions to help parents build their child's resilience:

"Let them know it is perfectly normal to feel upset or angry sometimes - As a parent, you can be an emotional role model for your children by showing them how to behave when you're frustrated or upset –although we know this isn't always easy!

Make time for fun and "down time" with your children to help keep some balance. This is also a great opportunity to enjoy some time listening and playing with your child.

Allow your child to learn from their own mistakes with support. Giving them age appropriate freedoms will help them learn their own limits, and show you trust them to make appropriate decisions.

Get advice and support – if you're worried that something has changed with your child, talk to your GP or someone at your child's school. There is also great advice available for parents online, for instance on MindEd ([www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk))".

### **School Car Park.**

The school car park is strictly for staff and official visitors only. You will have noticed that we have not yet had the barrier repaired as we are awaiting funding. In the meantime, please only use the pedestrian gate by the cycle shed. Parents and children should never walk across the car park; even though cars are required to reverse park for safety reasons, there is a high risk of an accident.

