

4th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing in response to the national lockdown which will commence tomorrow morning. As always, we will follow government guidelines and keep you informed of how school life may be affected. As it stands, the report from the government states:

"It remains very important for children and young people to attend, to support their wellbeing and education and help working parents and guardians. Senior clinicians still advise that school is the best place for children to be, and so they should continue to go to school. Schools have implemented a range of protective measures to make them safe."

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november#education-school-college-and-university>

We are continually monitoring our procedures and processes in school to keep all members of the school community as safe as possible. We continue to operate as two separate bubbles, with very little crossover between our KS2 classes, in particular.

From tomorrow we will be encouraging **adults** dropping off/collecting children to wear a mask when on the school premises. This is to ensure that we have mitigated all risks of contamination for our school community. Of course, we understand that there may be medical reasons why some adults may not be able to wear a mask. Also we ask that when you drop off/collect your child(ren) you keep the flow of movement through the one-way system to the exit gate and avoid congregating.

Whilst reviewing our risk assessment, we have identified the main entrance and the door to Melissa class as areas where visiting adults are most likely to be coming into closer contact with staff. Please ensure that you remain behind barriers (cones/painted lines) in order to support our procedures to keep everyone safe.

I would like to remind you not to send any paperwork for the office with your child. All letters/envelopes should be posted through the main letterbox.

Lastly, we need to keep rooms well ventilated and this can obviously cause a drop in temperature in these rooms. Please send your child with an extra underlayer (e.g. thermal vest, T shirt or thin sweatshirt). Children will continue to go outside to learn and play so please make sure they always have a coat and change of shoes (e.g. wellies or old trainers). This is really important, as we still have some children who are unable to play on the field with their friends as they do not have a change of footwear and this also complicates our supervision arrangements when the bubbles are not in one place.

This is not a situation that we would choose and we really appreciate your support to help keep us all safe. We are very conscious that we need to keep our lines of communication with you open for the benefit of our children and although we are unable to speak face to face, please use Class Dojo (and Tapestry for Reception parents) to communicate with your child's teacher. For messages that need to be responded to on the same day, please email or call the school office.

Thank you for your support with all of these arrangements and if you have any questions or concerns please do get in touch.

Best Wishes



Lesley Etchingam
Headteacher