Friday 29 January 2021

**Update**

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter find you all safe, well and coping the ongoing challenges the pandemic presents.

Please do reach out if you are feeling overwhelmed and we will do our best to offer you the help and support you need.

Following the Prime Minister’s announcement this week that schools will close for the half-term and the lockdown will be extended by a further two weeks I would like to provide an update in regards our response.

**Half-term break**

I can confirm that school will be closed over the February half-term. If your child tests positive over the half-term it is important that you tell us, so that we can do the necessary contact tracing and if needed inform those that may have been a close contact. If your child tests positive, please right click on this link to [REPORT A POSITIVE PUPIL CASE](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=u2qxpPbMiUSMT5RGeWw8YjjXXc0OhINJsqOTGW5OXZ9UN1A3WE1CR1k3REIyNzJZRlVNSDZQSFhJSi4u) and complete the online form, this will give us the information we need. If further information is needed someone from school will get in touch.

**Extension of the current Lockdown** **until 08 March 2021.**

We recognise and appreciate the impact of the time away from school for those pupils that have been learning from home and not yet returned to school since the end of term back in December.

If the PM announces that the lockdown will continue beyond the 08 March, we will review the arrangements for those pupils who are currently accessing school and will look to offer all pupils some time onsite.

We will also review our Risk Assessment in regards the latest information and guidance on transmission and cases and use this to support a review of the numbers of pupils we can have onsite.

The teachers and teaching assistants have been working incredibly hard and I could not be prouder, in regards their commitment and dedication to developing our remote learning and learning from home support, but we all recognise that despite our very best efforts and yours at home, it is not the same as being at school.

**Pupil testing**

We are continuing with our return to school testing programme for our secondary aged pupils, those children who return to school, and have requested, will have a test on the day they return and a second test three days later, as per the DFE guidance.

Our weekly pupil testing programme is starting next week. Weekly testing is available to any secondary aged pupil. If you would like your child to be part of the weekly testing programme, please contact your child’s class teacher. I am pleased to report that all results to date have been negative.

**Staff testing**

We have been testing staff weekly since Monday 04 January, and in line with DFE guidance will be introducing twice weekly testing on Monday 8 February. I am pleased to report that all results to date have been negative.

I will write again with a further update next week.

Kindest regards,

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Mr Kieran Welsh

Headteacher