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Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been challenging in number of ways: we have all had to get used to teaching and supporting learning in different ways as well as navigating the barriers of technology. We have had to deal with the challenges of reduced staffing as some have been 'close contacts' and I have to say that the staff team at Bridge School have proved once again what an incredible team they are.

I know from your emails that you share my admiration for them; they are working so hard to ensure that the children at home and those at school are getting the best experience possible and obviously this could not be achieved without your support as parents. Thank you.

COVID Update

Spaces at School

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I must confess that I am still struggling to reconcile the situation that we find ourselves in with the number of children that we have in school and there is still demand for these spaces. I know full well that there are families where both parents are 'critical workers' but have managed to arrange their work so that they can work from home. I also know that there are families where a parent is at home but still sending children in because they are eligible and would rather that their child was in school.

Every child in school increases the risk to everyone else but also increases the risk that we may have to close a 'bubble' and this would have an impact on all parents. To this end, I have to consider what actions we would take if we had to close a class for non-COVID reasons.

If this was the case, we would still hope to be able to provide for children of critical workers in that class but this would have an impact on the other class. In order to keep under the cap of 15 we would have to use criteria to determine who would be given priority. Within these criteria I also feel it appropriate to prioritise spaces for those families where the parents work in the NHS or are teachers.

The chosen criteria (in order of priority) are:

1. Both parents are critical workers and both do not work from home
2. One parent is a critical worker and both parents do not work from home
3. Both parents are critical workers and one parent works from home
4. One parent is a critical worker and one parent works from home
5. At least one parent is a critical worker and both parents work from home

Asymptomatic Testing

I heard on Wednesday that there are plans to begin asymptomatic testing of primary school pupils from Monday 25th January. I am attending a virtual DfE briefing on this on Monday and Tuesday and will write to you after this.



Compliance with National Lockdown Legislation

I have been contacted by parents who have expressed concerns that there are children attending school whose families are not complying with the current guidelines/legislation regarding lockdown.

- Children and adults **should not be socialising** with those outside of their household;
- Families **should not be car-sharing** unless they have formed a support or childcare bubble.

Please, for the benefit of everyone, can I ask all families to ensure that they are following the lockdown guidance/rules.

Free School Meal Voucher Scheme

The National Voucher Scheme will be starting up again from next week and I will be ordering vouchers for these families as soon as I am able. Please check your email inboxes and junk mail (just in case) for emails from Edenred.

Remote Learning

Finding Links

Some parents reported problems finding the 'correct' meeting, especially where there are several a day and links can easily get lost in the posts. Each class now has a separate 'links' section where all links can be found.

School Workbooks

Not everyone has collected their school workbooks yet. If you have not done this, please contact your child's class teacher as they will now have these. A reminder that these workbooks are an 'extra' that you can use at home, we may be using these a little in school and are also an insurance in case a teacher and/or class needs to be self-isolating or is unwell.

Online Safety/Conduct

As well as the adults, the children have also been using how to use Teams appropriately and, just like the adults, not everything goes right all of the time. The teachers have spoken to their children about when and what to post on Teams and this will be monitored although we are not able to moderate every comment that is written. I'd like to reassure everyone that any infractions will be dealt with according to our school behaviour policy.

The teachers will also be setting some work about being safe online. These will be a series of short, 15-minute activities that families can complete together.

Reading Books

Today, we were able to do a 'book swap' for all children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 and, next Thursday, we will do the same for Years 3 to 6. Parents can come to the school playground between 2pm and 3pm where there will be boxes of books (one for each year group) and a book can be chosen for the coming week. This will continue on alternate Thursdays, i.e. KS2 next week, Year R and KS1 the following week.

Parental Consultations

Apologies but we're still organising this and will have details for you next week.

With best wishes,



James Tibbles
Headteacher