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**Headteacher: Adrian Mount**

20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you are all aware, since September 2020 the message from the Government has been that a return to school is vital for children's education and wellbeing. We fully support this view and have endeavoured to keep our school open to all pupils and students since the beginning of the academic year.

COVID-19 is continuing to impact on the whole nation and obviously this includes schools. I am sure many of you will know of schools locally that have needed to close either the whole school, classes or year groups.

The measures we have put in place, through our risk assessment, to reduce contact between groups, means that classes operate in bubbles. Whilst this prevents pupils/students and staff from mixing, it provides a real dilemma for school leaders when staff are absent, as we are not able to 'borrow' from other areas. The closure of other schools impacts on our own staff with young children as they often have to be at home to look after them. In addition, any family members showing symptoms of the virus again leads to households having to isolate which can again impact on our staffing numbers. We are therefore often faced with difficult decisions to make in order to ensure we can continue to operate safely.

Should we need to adopt alternative measures, we have contingency plans in place which includes moving to home learning/remote sessions for classes unable to remain open. In addition, we also have a part-time plan whereby some pupils/students are in school part of the week and the other half of the class the rest. Remote sessions would continue to be offered to those not in attendance on a daily basis. I can assure you, neither of these are favoured options, we much prefer to have our pupils and students in school full time, however we must ensure that the school remains adequately staffed to meet the needs of our pupils/students at all times.

Should we need to move to part-time or remote learning we will, of course, give as much notice as possible however, we must ensure that the school remains safe for our pupils and students therefore may have to make decisions at short notice in order to ensure adequate supervision and support.



Can I please remind all parents/carers that you must not send your child into school if they, or anyone in their household, has any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

Should any child display any of the above symptoms whilst at school, we will follow our procedures and call parents/carers to collect their child immediately and will advise that they should arrange for their child to be tested.

If you would like to discuss this or any other matter, please contact the school office.

Kind regards



Adrian Mount  
Headteacher