

Cheapside CofE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle



Wednesday 20th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Managing COVID-19 transmission in schools

COVID-19 infections rates have been steadily rising in school aged children since the start of the academic year, and current rates are amongst the highest the borough has ever seen.

Following an extraordinary meeting of the East Berkshire Health Protection Board to review current guidance in relation to educational settings and COVID-19, several additional measures have been identified with the aim of reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission. These recommendations have been sent to schools and colleges within Bracknell Forest and RBWM.

We have already begun implementing these enhanced measures in school today, over and above the current government guidance.

Enhanced measures:

Masks and Social Distancing

We will be asking any visitors to the school (unless exempt) to wear and maintain wearing a mask in and around the school. Staff may wear a mask in and around school, especially in communal areas and when working in sustained, close contact with a child.

We are also asking that parents and carers adhere to social distancing at 'drop-off' and 'pick-up' and use a mask during these times. Staff on the gate or helping to dismiss children will also wear these.

Bubbling of groups

- Wrens and Robins (Reception and Year 1) will be bubbled together to allow continuous provision to continue during the day.
- Doves (Year 2) will bubble on their own.
- Nightingales and Kingfishers (Year 3 and 4) will bubble together.
- Kestrels and Owls (Year 5 and 6) will bubble together.

We will be having 3 sittings for lunch in the hall – Reception, Year 1 and 2, followed by Year 3 and 4, followed by Year 5 and 6.

There will also be separate break and lunch playtimes for the bubbles.

Year 6 Buddies

Sadly, we will not be able to continue having Owls and Wrens working together and the Year 6 helpers will not be able to help at KS1 lunch times. We will find other ways for Y6 to work with their buddies, perhaps virtually.

Whole School Assemblies

There will be no whole school assemblies inside. If the weather is dry, we may use outside, socially distanced.

Additional Cleaning

During the school day, additional cleaning will take place in shared areas and the dining room.

Testing

In both primary and secondary schools/colleges when i) a child or member of staff has a household member test positive for COVID-19 or ii) a child or member of staff is identified as a close contact of a positive case via NHS Test and Trace:

- The child or member of staff should be advised to take a daily LFD test for 7 days, in addition to taking a one-off PCR test. Anyone who is exempt from self-isolation (those under 18 or adults who are fully vaccinated) and who tests negative can continue to attend school during this period of daily LFD testing. This is different from previous advice.

School Clubs

We shall be reviewing our club provision and will update you on our plans for continuing after half term. They will remain as they are for the remainder of this week.

PTA Events

Having to take a step backwards and re-introduce the above measures, may call into question some of our proposed PTA events. We'll inform you as soon as we can.

Christmas Events

The planned Nativities and Christmas Carol Service may not be able to go ahead. I appreciate how disappointing this is as we were all so looking forward to these special events resuming this year. Once again, bear with us and we'll let you know as soon as we can what the expectation is.

These recommended, enhanced measures will remain in place until the end of the Autumn Term 2021. However, they will be kept under regular review, including in light of any change to Government guidance, and with consideration to changes in COVID-19 data.

Our guiding principle as always is that we want to minimise the disruption to the education of our children whilst also ensuring that at the heart of every decision we make we consider the well-being of all members of our school community.

I would like to thank you for your continued support as always and hope that with these measures in place, we will help to secure a reduction in case rates in the borough and continued stability to our children's education.

If you have any further questions, please email the school office or the SLT.

Yours sincerely



Kate Searle
Headteacher