

Cheapside C of E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle

December 16th 2020

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, this term we have worked very hard at restricting the number of contacts children have whilst at school. We have done this by keeping children with their own class to form a 'bubble', which we have kept apart from other 'bubbles'. This has been extremely challenging for both children and staff, and in particular with our younger classes, Wrens and Robins.

As an SLT, we regularly review our procedures and Risk Assessments and take Health and Safety advice from the Borough regarding any changes to our Covid-19 protocol. With this in mind, we would like to notify all parents that we will be making Wrens and Robins into a single 'bubble' when the children return from the Christmas holiday.

In practice, this means that both classes could eat lunch together in the hall, which we believe will aid their social skills. Our Reception children have not come into contact with any other children from a different class and we feel it is important that they are slowly and safely introduced to our wider school community and it will give our Year 1 children the opportunity to be role models for the younger children. The two classes could also then play together at break time. For our Year 1 children, they will also be able to use the play space outside the hall with our Reception children. We know that the children are very keen to have access to this space and the play equipment. The children currently share the same toilet facilities, but have toilets and sinks allocated to their class and this will continue. Both classes will now have shared access to all our resources and equipment rather than having limited access due to having to quarantine resources in between the separate bubbles using them.

Having reflected on the system currently in place, and carried out a Risk Benefit Analysis, we feel this is the right time to take this next step.

We have taken into account the fact that joining both classes to form a bigger bubble will increase the number of contacts that the children and staff have, and know that this would have implications for both classes rather than just one class if we have a confirmed case of Covid-19. If we are notified of a positive case in either class, we will act on advice and guidance given at the time from Public Health England.

We have given this matter a lot of consideration. We have observed the children in their play, talked to them about how they finding things at school and consulted staff about routines and protocols. This decision is based on what we feel would benefit the children most, in terms of their personal, social and emotional development and ensuring that they have as much access as possible to resources and equipment to use in their play and learning; whilst at the same time making sure we continue to have procedures in place to help stop the spread of the virus.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Searle, Mrs Summers and Mrs Roberts

Senior Leadership Team