

*“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children.”  
Nelson Mandela*

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Contact Packs

Could you please ensure all forms sent out have been returned to school. It is a statutory requirement that we hold current information for all pupils. We would like to thank those of you who have already returned the packs. We require at least three contacts for all pupils in the case of an emergency as sometimes we struggle when only two are given and both are the parents. **Please ensure we have your correct details at all times to enable staff to contact you in the event of a class closure.** Thank you for your support with this.

## Class Charts

We assume you have now all read your child's report on Class Charts. Please note this is a two-way communication channel and we would encourage parents to provide feedback to the teachers based on the reports they receive.

## COVID-19

With the number of cases of COVID-19 in our school community rising, could we please ask that if you or a family member experience any symptoms or go for a test that you call school to inform us as opposed to leaving a message on the absence reporting line. This is due to school needing to be aware of dates of symptoms/tests to help inform the management of bubble closures, if necessary.

As a reminder, NHS guidance regarding self-isolation is currently:

### **Self-isolate for at least 10 days if:**

- you have symptoms of coronavirus and you tested positive, had an unclear result or did not have a test
- you tested positive but have not had symptoms

If you have symptoms, the 10 days start from when they started. If you have not had symptoms, the 10 days starts from when you had the test. However, if you get symptoms after your test, the 10 days will start from the day your symptoms start.

### **Self-isolate for 14 days if you live with or are in a support bubble with someone who:**

- has symptoms of coronavirus and tested positive, had an unclear result or did not have a test
- tested positive but has not had symptoms

This is because it can take 14 days for symptoms to appear. The 14 days start from when the first person in your home or support bubble started having symptoms, or the day they were tested if they have not had symptoms. If they get symptoms after they were tested, the 14 days will start from the day their symptoms started.

Please note, whilst we cannot enforce proof of test results, we trust you will help us in keeping our school and the wider community safe during this worrying time.

Unfortunately, it has been necessary to close down our Year 6 bubble and for the pupils to self-isolate. **We urge you to adhere to the guidelines and to NOT bring your child into school to collect siblings.**

May we also remind you that only one person is allowed on site (this includes high school children) to drop off and collect and unless you are exempt from wearing a face covering on medical grounds, it is essential that you take personal responsibility and wear one when on school premises.

### **Reading at Home**

As parents, you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read. Research shows that people without good literacy skills do worse in education and are more likely to be unemployed or even suffer from health and relationship problems. With this in mind, could you please ensure your child is being listened to when reading on a regular basis and it is being recorded in their Reading Record. Reading also develops and extends vocabulary, which in turn improves writing. Please try to hear your child to read regularly. However, a big thank you to all the parents/carers who already do.

### **Online Safety Awareness**

The internet is a fantastic source of information and a great way to keep in touch with others, especially since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, but it also comes with risks – especially for children and young people. Sandwell Children's Trust and Sandwell Council are offering a short webinar to raise parents' awareness of Prevent and online safety for children and young people. The sessions will be delivered via Microsoft Teams on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> November and will last for 45 minutes. Further information and joining instructions will be sent via ParentMail.

### **INSET Day**

Please note that school will be closed for all pupils on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Also, please remember that the school term ends at 12.15 p.m. on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

### **On-site Car Park**

Despite the changes to the times parents can access the school car park we still have a number of parents, particularly those whose children attend P.O.S.H. club, who are coming on to the car park to drop off children without parking in a space first. This is causing a knock-on effect to members of staff and/or visitors who then have to wait to be able to park and/or leave after dropping their own child off. If you must access the car park to drop your child off, could you please park appropriately for the convenience of all other drivers. If there are no available spaces to park on site, please do not park on double yellow lines or stop in front of the building. This is a health and safety risk as it prevents access to the site. Please always park with other car park users in mind. **Likewise, do not park in the disabled bays unless you are a Blue Badge holder.**

### **Remote Access**

Whilst we appreciate Christmas will be different for many of us this year, if you are thinking of giving electronic gifts, due to the current circumstances may we suggest a laptop as opposed to a tablet? Children will still be able to play games, however they will also be able to access all remote learning that they are now being asked to complete when having to stay away from school due to COVID-19.

### **Missed Birthday Parties**

We are mindful that due to the restrictions in place that many of our pupils have been unable to celebrate their birthdays in the usual way. We have therefore arranged to have a mini party at the end of each term to celebrate the birthdays of the children during those months.

Yours sincerely,

*T L Jones*

**MRS. T. L. JONES**

Headteacher