Thursday, 17 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for all your support getting all our children back into school. It has been a great start to the term.

The children have done an amazing job following the rules and keeping each other safe. We continue to monitor the procedures we have in place and we'll make adjustments as we feel necessary. We are keeping a close eye on the changing situation both locally and nationally and are able to access high quality advice on the best way to keep Covid secure.

As many of you will be aware there has been a confirmed case at Oakmoor Secondary School and they are in discussions with Public Health England on the best way to proceed. In the meantime as a precaution Year 7 students have been asked to work from home.

This does not affect our pupils directly and the siblings of children in Year 7 should still be coming to school. It is only those who have been in contact with confirmed cases that need to self-isolate. Our systems have been set up so that school can run safely even while Covid-19 remains.

All our classes are operating in protective class bubbles and those children do not mix with other children in school. They have their own zones to play in and their own sets of equipment. Throughout the day they are kept apart from other classes but they are still able to play with friends within their class and learn together. Even though things are different right now it is still a happy place for children to be. I need your help to minimise the contact your children have with others outside of school, especially with children from outside of their class bubble. This helps keep our whole school community safe.

I am in sending you all a leaflet which makes clear the procedure if your child or someone in your household has possible symptoms of Covid-19. I know the information from government changes and can be confusing. We are more than happy to help advise and support you. If you have any questions please phone the office. We have a lot of information about the best way to proceed.

Most of you will be familiar with the home learning that we set during the summer term and we are prepared for the possibility of future closures. In the event that a class needs to work from home then we will provide a similar level of high quality resources. We have seen how successful that has been as we have welcomed the children back. Our children are not behind and you should all be proud of what a great job you did supporting their learning. We are using targeted assessments to identify any individual children or groups with gaps and using pre-teaching to fill these. This takes a number of forms and some may be dealt with in school and some may be dealt with at home. We are looking to replace ‘homework’ with home learning based on what we learned last year and this will link to the pre-teaching. You will be getting a form tomorrow to clarify how your child’s class is looking to work with you to address key gaps for children within the class and to give you an opportunity to both ask questions and raise any points that you have. It is important that you take action to prepare for the possibility of future lockdown. The biggest thing that you can do is making sure there is adequate access to the internet for your child. We can continue to provide work that does not need printing and that can be completed on any paper as well as things that can be completed on the screen. To get the work to your child, as well as to give them a chance to access the teaching videos that will be included, it really is important that they have access to a device which can connect to the internet.

The systems for drop-off and collection have been going smoothly. Thank you for your patience with the changes. I would like to keep the two collection times close together to support those of you with siblings in the school, however, I can only do this if you all continue to maintain social distance while waiting to collect children at the end of the day. Please spread out across the collection zone and we will make sure your child gets to you. It might be sensible to agree a point on the playground where you will meet your child. From what I've seen so far you have been doing a great job and I thank you for this.

We are still only allowing essential visitors into school and these are required to wear a face covering. The children do not wear face masks in or around the school, it is only if they are using public transport that they advised to wear a mask.

Continuing to work with you in partnership will ensure your children are both happy and successful in school. Your child’s class teacher is your main point of contact and the best way to get in touch is through email.

Thank you again for your support.

 

Chris James

Headteacher