

15th January 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your loved ones are all safe and in good health.

It's the end of another busy week and, whether your child is at home or in school, I hope that they are well. Their safety and wellbeing are of paramount importance to us so, if there is anything else you would like us to do to support either your child or yourselves, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

As promised in previous letters, we will continue to update you on a weekly basis should any of our pupils or staff receive a positive COVID-19 test result across the school. We will of course inform you immediately if your child is directly affected. I can confirm that, since last Friday, we have had two pupils testing positive (one at Riverside SPC and one at Riverside Beckenham), resulting in two classes having to self-isolate and we have had three members of staff testing positive, all at Riverside SPC, resulting in another two classes having to self-isolate. Due to contact dates, all of those pupils will be missing either 5 or 6 days of school.

Due to our robust control measures, we have been able to limit the number of pupils and staff affected once a positive case has been identified. You will be aware from my letter dated 8th January that we have introduced a mass asymptomatic testing programme for all staff over all three sites and, in our first full week of testing, we have administered 163 tests, of which 161 were negative. Whilst we understand that weekly asymptomatic testing for such large numbers of staff will naturally result in increased numbers of positive cases being identified, it is our responsibility to do everything we can to identify asymptomatic cases and subsequently act swiftly to minimise the risk of further transmission and infection.

Before Christmas, if a positive case directly affected your child, you would have received a brief text message from the school, followed by an email and letter with further details about self-isolation dates and what to do if your child develops symptoms at home. We have reviewed and streamlined our systems and from now on, if your child is directly affected by a positive case in their class or on their bus, you will receive a telephone call from your child's class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team. During this call, we will let you know the self-isolation period and the day that your child can return to school, so long as they don't develop symptoms or test positive themselves during their time at home. We will also inform SEN Transport not to pick your child up for the dates specified. We remain fully committed to supporting your child during the period of self-isolation and your child's class teacher will be in touch with you regarding home learning support during their time at home.

If your child is well at the end of the self-isolation period, they can return to school, however, if they develop symptoms of COVID-19, namely a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a

loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, we would ask you to follow the guidance at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

We know that locally and nationally, cases are still high and the month of January was always likely to be a particularly tough one. Anxieties are naturally high and we will continue to review our strict precautionary measures in order to keep our school community as safe as we possibly can. As you will be aware, we have run the Extended Services Programme (Club) for the London Borough of Bromley for a number of years and at the beginning of this week, we took the difficult decision to cancel the next five days of Club (three Saturdays in January and February and two days during the February half term). This decision was based on a number of factors, primarily the risk that different children from different schools mixing with different staff could significantly compromise the tight control measures we have in place for our day-to-day school operations. The risk of further transmission across our wider school community and potential class closures due to decreased staffing capacity is not one that we wanted to take and we will continue to review future scheduled dates in the coming weeks.

Despite the challenges, we remain in this together. We will continue to do our utmost to provide you, and your children, with a school environment which is safe and happy and as one strong school community, we will get through this.

With very best wishes,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher