

28th January 2022

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families are all well.

As we reach the end of January and another month of uncertainty and unpredictability around all things COVID, we are still going strong! In last week's letter, I referred to the connections and friendships that are blossoming across all three sites and, in this week's letter, I would like to pay tribute to all your children for the way in which they have adapted to different situations brought about by the pandemic. I am particularly referring to the fact that due to the number of positive cases we have had at school recently, we have had to be flexible with staffing arrangements in order to keep our whole school community as safe as possible and to provide your children with as "normal" a school day as possible. Where there have had to be some changes to usual arrangements, your children have been brilliant in accepting and learning from them.

In line with our commitment to communicate frequently and openly with you about all COVID-related matters, I can confirm that we have had 40 positive COVID cases this week. Of this week's cases, 26 have been staff and 14 have been pupils (18 at SPC; 15 at Beckenham and 7 at West Wickham). Six classes had more than one positive case and thank you once again for your understanding and support for all the measures we have in place to manage the current spike in case numbers.

You will be aware that that from yesterday, schools were allowed to remove the requirement that staff and visitors wear face coverings in communal areas but in light of the current number of cases, we will be maintaining our policy of all staff and visitors wearing face coverings in communal areas until half term and we will review our position again at that point.

In other COVID-related news, I can confirm that next Thursday 3rd February, we will be hosting a visit from colleagues administering the booster jab for all pupils aged 12+ whose families would like them to receive one. If your child received their first and second jab last September and November, they will be eligible for the booster. Colleagues from the Oakfield Surgery will be in contact with you soon to get your consent and as on previous occasions, we would also ask that you [CLICK ON THIS LINK](#) to give your electronic consent. If your child is age 12+, has yet to be vaccinated and you would like them to receive their first or second dose next Thursday, please call the Oakfield Surgery on 020 8175 0473 and they will arrange this for you. Once you have spoken to them, please also click on the link above to give your electronic consent.

We are also in discussions with colleagues about the rollout of vaccinations for 5-11 year olds whose families would like them to receive one and more information about this programme will follow in due course.

In other news, if your child usually uses the hydrotherapy pool at SPC, you may have picked up on the fact that, unfortunately, we are experiencing some ongoing maintenance challenges with the pool at the moment. Please be assured that we have been doing, and will continue to do everything we can to resolve the current issues, but at this stage, I am afraid we are not able to say exactly when the

pool will re-open. Investigations are ongoing and we will let you know as soon as the pool is safe enough to use again. In the meantime, we apologise for the pause in your child's hydrotherapy access and thank you (and your child) for your patience.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of you who have sent in items of pre-loved school uniform, as requested in last week's letter. This will make a big difference to others within our school community and your support for this important initiative is very much appreciated.

And finally for today, I just wanted to reiterate our commitment to keeping our school running as smoothly and joyfully as possible during this slightly turbulent time. Despite the challenges, there will be brighter skies ahead ...

Wishing you all a lovely weekend,



Steve Solomons
Headteacher