



4th October 2020

BHPS Newsletter No. 5

Dear Parents/Carers,

The letter that I planned to write to you this weekend has changed significantly so, in addition to what I was going to write in the next paragraph, I now need to provide you with further information which is of importance. Please read **all** of this letter.

Having attended a telekit conference organised by the Local Authority, I am concerned, as many of you are, about the rising number of cases of Coronavirus both nationally but also in the Broxtowe area itself. As a result, from Tuesday 6th October, we **strongly request** that all adults wear a face mask when they come close to and enter the school site to drop off or collect their children. This is an additional measure that can help to further reduce the risk of transmitting the virus. Children do not need to wear face masks. Other schools in the local area are also following this course of action. Please can we remind you that a mask in itself is not a guarantee of safety and, again, we request that parents observe social distancing and do not congregate to chat around the area close to school.

Over the weekend, we have been informed that 1 pupil and 1 member of staff have tested positive for Coronavirus. We have taken guidance from the DfE specialist helpline and the following courses of action are to be taken. Both cases are different and every factor has been evaluated carefully.

- The year 5 pupil who has tested positive will self-isolate together with three others who had contact with the pupil out of school.
- At this stage, in accordance with clear guidance, we will **not** be closing either of the year 5 classes.
- **Due to a member of staff working in year 1 and Foundation who has tested positive, I regret to inform you that it will be necessary to close both year 1 classes (1C and 1U) and both Foundation classes (Diamonds and Sapphires) for the whole of this coming week, up to and including Friday 9th October.**
- Children and staff in these classes who were present in school on Friday 25th September will need to self-isolate until the end of Friday 9th October. At this stage we expect them to be back in school again on Monday 12th October.
- It is essential you read the guidance on how to self-isolate via this link. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>
- It is not necessary for children in these four classes to get a test for coronavirus unless they develop symptoms.
- Children who are in these four classes should not attend the school site and therefore should not accompany an adult who might be dropping off or collecting a sibling. We are aware that this may present considerable challenges for you but this is the clear guidance we have received.
- It is not necessary for other family members of self-isolating children to self-isolate so siblings can attend school and parents who aren't impacted on by child care issues can go to work.

This situation obviously presents us all with considerable challenges and it is important that, in times of difficulty, we all pull together. We hope that those affected by the virus make a swift recovery. The Year 1 and Foundation teams will be providing a full package of remote learning including Zoom meetings from Tuesday 6th and I urge all parents to keep their eyes open for emails and the school website. We expect all children to fully engage with remote learning.

Having enjoyed having the children back in school so much, we are as disappointed as you will be at having to take this action but we must do what we can to try and maintain the safety of the whole community.

I will endeavour to be in touch again shortly.

Yours faithfully,

Pete Taylor
Head Teacher

