



SCHOOL NEWS

WEEK 4TH JANUARY 2021

Respect



This week the focus is on **respect**.

Mrs. Greenwood has returned to making our Value Video. This week we return to one of our core values Respect. Please click on the link to view the video.

https://youtu.be/6Tl_hlq1A8w

Please remember to message the class teachers with nominations from home so they can be added to the values competition.

COVID- 19 Update



Firstly, I apologise for the last-minute changes around school re-opening last night. It has been a very tricky Christmas period with information changing hourly / daily etc. and I am sure we are in for further changes and challenges this half term. I therefore ask you to continue to be supportive and understanding.

Keep safe

As an Alternative Provision school, we are aiming to remain as open as we possibly can throughout the current restrictions. This is the decision of the Government and does not fall on the school to make these decisions.

Our school has been selected to carry out weekly testing of staff. Therefore, we have used Monday 4th January to liaise and support staff through the testing procedure and process.

All staff have agreed to weekly testing. The current information is that 1 in 3 people can be Asymptomatic and therefore transmitting the virus. By testing staff we are further reducing the risk. Our testing days will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays weekly whilst we have additional staffing capacity to carry out the processes required. However, as staff become more confident in this area we will be looking to self-test regularly. Consequently, due to this regular testing, you may be informed at short notice of bubble closures and the need to move to remote learning.

If a staff member from a bubble tests positive then that bubble will automatically be moved onto remote learning for the isolation period of 10 days. We have no capacity or funding to bring in additional staff and it is not recommended to be testing Primary aged children in school. As you are aware, our children do not cope with change and as any new staff will not have the expertise required for our children's needs, it will be a bubble closure.

We now have 4 bubbles not 2.

- 1- Elm Class with up to 5 staff working in this group over the week.
- 2- Maple Class with up to 4 staff working in this group over the week.
- 3- Oak Class with up to 4 staff working in this group over the week.
- 4- Orchard Class with up to 3 staff working in this group over the week.

The children will be mixing bubbles on transport and this is something we can not change. Our goal is to reduce the amount of direct contacts around the whole school to minimise any opportunities for COVID to be

transmitted. Obviously, given that COVID is highly infectious there is no way that any environment can claim to be 100% COVID secure. All we can outline is that we are doing everything we possibly can.

The protocols remain the same. Any child / adult developing the following symptoms of loss of taste / smell, high temperature and or continuous cough, (coughing more than usual up to 3 episodes per 24 hours), the family should isolate until the person with symptoms is tested and results are produced.

School continue to have to be informed of test results as we have to report to Public Health and the Local Authority.

School will re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2020 for ALL CHILDREN as we have the staffing capacity and structure in place.

Please can every family follow the Tier 4 or current guidance to keep open and safe. COVID testing is invasive and all staff have agreed to this to keep children safe and to help keep school opening.

Remote Learning



Remote learning for each child is very bespoke to their needs and the family needs. As a small school we are able to do this.

There is a high expectation set from the Department of Education that children isolating have to be accessing their remote learning and completing the minimum amount.

There is a DFE expectation that children do the learning that is set and that they do engage in the activities, both in a 'pack' and on line with their class teacher.

Staff Protection



Our staff are committed to making school a safe place and this means they will be wearing face masks when in communal areas and when on arrival and departure duties.

The mixing of staff has been reduced significantly and staff are working within their teams to cover breaks and duties. Again, if additional staff are called to a bubble full PPE will be worn if social distancing measures can not be adhered to.

Staff are now advised to be wearing a visor in the classroom when working with children directly. Staff will explain this to the children supportively.

Lunches

Children will continue to have lunches in their classes. At present the menu will continue however may change following further guidance.

Updated Information



The current situation is constantly changing. As I have previously outlined at present we are open to ALL children. However, if the situation changes, and circumstances change, then we will be following the most up to date guidance, reviewing each child's provision and making decisions whether it is safe for them to be in school etc. This is a really challenging time.... again. With lots of new hurdles. Please work with us.

Clothing



As I have outlined in my previous newsletters, school has to be well ventilated and the temperature has dropped significantly. Therefore, children are required to be in warm layers of clothing e.g. Under their school uniform.

Thank You for your continued support. Have a lovely week.

Mrs. Dodd and the team at Stepping Stones School