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Headteacher: Brett Stevenson

Dear Parents,

I hope you are well, and those around you.

I am sure you will appreciate that since we have returned to school in September, there has been an increase in the number of cases of COVID-19 within our schools and the wider community. This will include pupils, their immediate families and staff and theirs. As far as possible, we have had minimal disruption to the children's learning, but inevitably it does occur. On certain days it has been very difficult indeed to find a supply teacher, at short notice, which has meant that one of our superb Teaching Assistants have led the class.

Looking at the advice from the County (GCC) it would be appropriate to advise you that in the future we may have to take extra action to help mitigate against the rising cases, which are predominantly linked to school age groups. Additionally, there was a sharp increase in the cases in the Southwest, which was linked to a series of false negative results recently.

Some of the measures we may introduce, re-introduce and continue are:

- Face coverings for staff
- Parents and carers may be asked to wear coverings in crowded areas such as the school gates
- Continued restrictions on large gatherings eg assemblies, productions
- Ask staff to test twice a week through an LFT.
- Encourage you to test your child regularly with an LFT

During the school day there is an emphasis on handwashing. Communal areas are wiped down regularly, and children are tested for high temperature if they feel poorly. We ventilate our schools as best as we can.

There are still plenty of occasions when children should be sent home when they are poorly. Whilst we have to balance being cautious with being 'over cautious', we still would like to reserve the right to ask you to arrange to collect your child immediately if we feel that they may be displaying some symptoms of COVID-19.

We know from experience over the last few weeks that it is best to have your child tested by PCR to eradicate any doubt that they may be poorly from COVID-19. We

also know that testing by LFT is not always reliable, and I would like to urge you to consider a PCR if your child (or you for that matter) return a negative LFT, and still feel poorly. The timing of incubation of the virus and it being identified in any test is quite arbitrary. Therefore, I believe an informed common-sense approach is very important.

Hopefully the actions that we are taking will prevent any sustained disruption. However, if the school needs to close a class or even the whole school, this will be a last resort. If an outbreak occurs and we cannot operate safely due to staffing being affected, then I will have no alternative but to close affected classes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Take care,

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted.

Brett Stevenson

Headteacher