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Thursday 17th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Important School Update on COVID-19 and Remainder of School Summer Term

The purpose of this letter is to give you an update in relation to a positive COVID-19 case this week, the very recent rise in cases seen in Haringey in the last week and how we are responding at BG in light of this for what remains of this term.

On Tuesday this week we needed to advise the parents/carers of 38 children in Year 1 (Chalk Farm class plus 10 children from Manor House/Swiss Cottage) to self-isolate due to a positive Lateral Flow Test for COVID-19, pending a follow up PCR test. We received the result of the PCR test late on Tuesday evening which came back positive. This has led to these 38 children being required to self-isolate for the required 10 day period until their scheduled return on Friday 25th June.

Since our return at the end of the Spring term, and with declining transmission rates into the summer term, we have made careful and considered decisions to maximise the children's learning and all round development in relation to how children in certain Year groups have been mixed. Specific examples of cross class bubbles have been in Year 1 where since the beginning of the summer term the year group has been mixed for Daily Supported Reading (DSR) groups at the beginning of the day as well as for daily Phonics groups in the afternoon. Similarly in Year 2 teaching assistants have at times had mixed Year 2 children for phonics/reading groups (though to a lesser extent than in Year 1). The mixed DSR and Phonics Y1 groups have therefore led to the additional 10 children from Manor House and Swiss Cottage class having to self-isolate.

Case rates, like the rest of the UK, are increasing in Haringey. There have been 23 reported cases to Haringey Public Health across schools in the week up to 16th June, driven by the more transmissible 'Delta' variant. This is an increase from last week where there were just 5 cases across Haringey schools.

Changes in Light of Above to Practice/RA Being Put in Place at BG

In light of our positive case this week, alongside the increase in transmission cross Haringey, we have made the decision to stop Y1 working cross class bubbles in DSR and Phonics (the same for the lesser extent within Year 2) to minimize the risk of more children potentially needing to self-isolate in the eventuality of another positive case. Whilst this will have a detrimental impact on the effectiveness of the DSR and Phonics provision in Year 1 compared to working cross-year group, we judge that it is, on balance, the best decision.

For the time being we will continue to work as a Reception free-flow environment. With 5 weeks to go wholesale change to Reception class bubbles would negatively impact significantly on the Reception children's all round well-being. Needless to say we will keep this decision under review in light of any future positive cases/rising rates of transmission.

I am sure all of you will be aware of the 'Delta' variant and it's sudden rise in transmission, ultimately leading to the Government's decision on Monday to delay Stage 4 re-opening from 21st June until 19th July.



A Reminder about Caution, Vigilance and Lateral Flow Testing

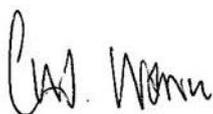
This is a key time for our school community to be cautious and vigilant. You are aware of the COVID-19 symptoms, and with the new variant it has been reported that headache and runny nose are symptoms associated. Obviously these are also Hayfever symptoms but parents will be aware if their child suffers with this. We urge you to maintain the caution and sensible way you have shown since the start of the academic year at this critical time. Please do not send your child to school if they are displaying symptoms, they will need to get a full PCR test.

Whilst it is routine for children in secondary school to test regularly using Lateral Flow Tests, it is not a requirement for primary school children, but we do ask that you use your discretion as to whether you would like to test your child using Lateral Flow Tests as long **as they don't have symptoms**. These can be critical in picking up asymptomatic cases and preventing spread of the virus. Please follow this link to find where your nearest test collection point is: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/#/>

I will be reminding school staff of the need to maintain preventative risk measures such as mask wearing in playground at beginning and end of day, distancing and limits on numbers in staffrooms and other aspects.

It is understandable that after such a long time, and with the roll out of the vaccination programme, that adults across the country may have become 'relaxed' in their approach, and our school is no different. At this time, in light of events, I need to firmly remind and ask all of you to not become complacent. Please ensure you wear a mask whilst on site, please maintain social distancing, please keep to our one-way system, may each and every one of us remember caution so that we can keep our children in school and minimize spread of this far more transmissible variant.

Yours sincerely,



Will Wawn
Headteacher