



Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Dear parents and carers,

As we reach the end of another week in school, I wish to thank our whole school community for the continued support in all aspects of school life. In particular, the staff and I wish to thank everyone for the incredible support with remote learning for the children. We recognise the significant commitment of all of our families in supporting these systems. All the staff and I are especially aware of the many difficulties for families during the national lockdown and school closure to most children which can make supporting remote learning challenging. I wish to sincerely thank everyone for being so supportive of school in helping us continue learning for all the children. If you do have questions about this aspect of school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

This week I have really enjoyed the opportunity to speak to the children through some virtual class assemblies and say how proud I am of all of them for the tremendous efforts they are all showing. I know all the staff and I feel incredibly proud of them all for their tremendous attitudes in everything they are doing, whether that is in school or their virtual classrooms which have been working so well. I once again would like to sincerely thank our wonderful children.

Finally as we enter the weekend it is important to update you on a new and very important aspect of school which everyone should be aware of, in particular those parents whose children are in school as part of our provision for critical workers.

### **Whole School Staff Testing**

In line with Government policy and for the safety of everyone in our community, our school is now able to test all staff twice a week. This asymptomatic testing is a new aspect within our risk assessments and is starting from next week. This means that although staff may not be showing any symptoms, they may be identified as positive for Covid-19.

In the event of a member of staff testing positive, the children that the member of staff has been working with will be alerted. Children who have been part of this provision will be asked to isolate and the provision for critical workers in that year group will be closed down for the isolation period.

Whilst this has always been the case, we have never had to close an aspect of our provision due to a positive test. We are one of the very few schools in the country that has not had to do this. However, as we are now testing staff regularly there is more of a chance of identifying an asymptomatic person. This means there is a greater chance of part of our provision having to close and children having to isolate as a contact. In this event, we would contact you with full details.

I am asking everyone accessing our critical worker provision to **be aware that you may receive notice that your child has to isolate** if they have been a contact **and their provision is no longer available** even if they have not been a contact. This may be in a morning of the provision. As a school we are currently working at full capacity to manage **remote learning** and **critical worker provision** within strict risk assessments. If staff cannot attend school due to isolating, it will not be possible to offer additional provision for children in that class who may not have been a contact due to the days they attend school

It is therefore essential that everyone accessing this provision has alternate plans for their children and is also aware that their child may be asked to isolate at home as a contact of a staff member.

Thank you for your continued support. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Kennedy

**Headteacher**