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Wednesday 24th March 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you are all well.

I just wanted to offer a further update since Sunday, and after a hectic week.

After I wrote to you on Sunday, I had to close Purple Bubble due to a positive test result on an LFT (home test kit). This has resulted in a PCR test being carried out and a negative result being given. After speaking with Public Health they said, as I had thought, that we could re-open on this information. There was then another home test carried out for this pupil where the result showed a faint positive. Public Health were still certain we could open but NHS were not. Rather than get it wrong, with consequences meaning possible spread and another closure, it was decided to confirm the result was definitely negative before opening. Unfortunately, this second PCR has returned as positive. I send my thanks to the family for doing the LFT that led to the questioning around the validity of the negative test as this prevented us opening, spreading the infection and then having to close again, which was our fear. So apologies for the ‘open one minute’ then ‘closed the next’ messages yesterday, but hope you can see the reason why now. This group remains in isolation until the 30th with a return on the 31st. We hope you all remain safe and well.

Red Bubble came back today. Again there was a (what is now known to be) false positive on the LFT and another suspected case yesterday. I did not want to take the risk of opening with this virus still being around particularly after the isolation period, as I would have expected it to be gone, and then having to close again. The staff and children are in school now and were very excited when they got here this morning. Apologies for such an early text on Tuesday morning but I hope you appreciate I needed to make a quick decision and ensure you all had that information. I want to thank you for your understanding as there was no way I could entertain the thought of opening the bubble, not acting on what I knew, and then putting you back in isolation for another 10 days.

I think what the past week has shown us is that although this has been managed as well as possible over the past twelve months, we are not out of this yet and it’s still very much a part of the community. Some bubbles have been hit more than others and this is by no means the fault of the staff, pupils or families. This is a virus that is being tackled worldwide so it is bound to come in the building despite all of our best efforts.



“Valuing every achievement”



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We just need to follow Government guidance and adhere to the rules, to ensure we get through this as best we can. To those currently ill and tackling it, we wish you all the best with a prompt recovery.

As a school we take children from across the whole of Worcestershire and into Birmingham, so we are faced with different infection rates within these towns, and therefore this impacts on us as a school. With this in mind and with the recent bubble closures, this has led to us tightening bubbles in school even more.

Currently we have 5 bubbles across the school, which take into consideration pupils ages, and position within the building to keep them as contained as possible. Due to the past week's closures, we have changed this slightly so within one bubble now, there maybe 2 or 3 smaller bubbles with two classes joining up. This is to hopefully minimise the impact of a closure effecting too many groups and staff. As a result of this change, I will be postponing clubs until further notice, as otherwise the best efforts at minimising possible infection and whole bubble closures will be undone in a club! If you are on the list and have a place allocated you will be contacted when I feel it is safe to run these clubs. Again I thank you for your understanding at this time.

There will also be NO cooking coming back in the curriculum yet either.

I appreciate this is all a shame, but at the minute, these are risks that I am not willing to take until things feel more settled.

Please keep an eye on your children and yourselves for any of the symptoms I have previously mentioned and take your child for a test if you or they have any of the following; Headache, achy body, cough, cold, runny nose, sore throat, as well as the better known symptoms of COVID.

Thank you as always for your continued support

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tracey'.

Tracey
Headteacher



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