



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

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Wednesday 6th October 2021

Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your patience over the past few days with the volume of text messages I have sent you! I want to keep you as informed as possible and as our system only allows 160 characters per text, I sometimes have to send more than one to get the message over! So apologies for these.

Today we are at 10 positive cases across the school. Particularly focussed on 2 areas which is good, however now linking to buses. The scariest cases are the asymptomatic ones, those that have no symptoms whatsoever but are carrying the virus unknowingly and spreading it.

I want to thank all of you who have taken your children for a PCR test as this is the only way we can pick up asymptomatic cases. I appreciate that some of you do not believe in the testing or do not want to put your child through this process, but what today has shown us is that this is an important way to pick up cases that would ordinarily be continuing to spread amongst pupils and staff.

Due to the nature of our school, your child may be ok with COVID, but for others it can hospitalise them, and for staff who catch it, even double jabbed, this has an effect on their health and obviously keeps them off work for 10 days meaning your child has this disruption and could mean a class closure if we can't staff it. So please, if you are asked to PCR your child, please do so. Even if it's a couple of times in a week, the virus could have developed and it could be your child is now 'positive' when 3 days earlier they were 'negative'. Please also do not rely on the LFTs. They only pick up the virus where a heavy load is present so these have caught us out before when we have considered someone to be 'negative' and then the PCR has returned as 'positive'.

We have been praised today by Public Health for our systems, processes and for the decisive manner in which we take action. Closing both Chestnut Centre and Hazel class have stopped any further spread. I want to apologise again for any inconvenience these decisions are causing you, but please understand I will always put my pupils and staff health first and foremost with decision making and will always ensure their safety is the key consideration.



“Valuing every achievement”



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Until our return to school on November 2nd, and whilst our numbers of positive cases are at the highest they have been throughout the whole of this, the following will remain or be in place:

*The Recovery Plan & Operations Booklet I sent earlier in the week

*The Outbreak Management Plan

*No after school clubs (this is due to too much mixing across departments, so if we get a case, it could impact on more than one class)

*No trips offsite

Our whole issue with the spread of the virus is because there is no need to isolate anymore. Therefore, if anyone in school, pupils or staff, has a positive case at home and they are negative on a PCR at the start of this, they could develop over the week and bring it in to the building. Likewise, when we have a case in class, if there are less than 2 cases, the children can still come in to school and if they are asymptomatic and not tested, this then spreads. Before, we'd have the whole class out for 10 days and not see the knock on effect like we have this week. Therefore, it is advisable that if you do take your child for a PCR and regardless of whether they have symptoms or not, that you keep them off until we know the result.

I hope that we have contained these cases now.

Please continue to be mindful of symptoms such as sore throat, tiredness, runny nose, headache, cough, cold and general 'not feeling right'. All of these have been noted in symptomatic positive cases.

I will notify currently closed classes when we can reopen.

Thank you as always for your support and understanding. As a school team we cannot thank you enough for this.

Take care, keep safe and keep well.

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

Tracey



“Valuing every achievement”