



Rigby Lane, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire B60 2EP

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Families,

I sincerely hope that you are all well. Those of you who I know have COVID, I hope it's mild and you get over it quickly. To those of you mourning the loss of loved ones and friends, our thoughts are with you all.

In school we still have over 50% of our pupils in which equates to around 160 people in total, in the building each day. That said, I am incredibly grateful to those of you who are helping us with these numbers and keeping your children learning remotely as and where you can.

Staff are being tested each week on a Monday. So far so negative, and long may it continue. Everyone we have tested up to this point have returned a negative result, but we know that first positive will show up one day. I will update the Operations Booklet I sent out in early January as guidance now states that the 7-day testing is not an effective method in keeping children and staff, especially in SEN, safe. I also struggled with this thought behind this process. Allowing close contacts to continue to closely contact with other people and potentially test positive on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the serial tests and have infected others, was always a concern and I don't think I would have offered this anyway, so I am glad that this has now changed. This now means that if someone tests positive and there are close contacts, these contacts will need to self-isolate for 10 days. I will update this over the weekend and send out. Guidance changes daily. We are up to date with everything but I need to update you all now at the end of this week.

Over the forthcoming week, a large proportion of our staff will receive the vaccination. This is a very welcomed offer and reassuring for us as a staff team that we will have received this first jab.

Timings in the morning will change slightly now we don't have as many children in, more in line with usual times. So we will be opening the gates at 8.50 and closing the gates at 9.05. The end of the day will remain the same for the time being.

Despite claims that 'schools are closed' you will know that this very much is not the case!! The staff are working tirelessly to teach face to face, remotely and also make welfare calls to



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everyone. Please let us know if there are any issues or concerns or if you are struggling with anything. Every communication you have with our staff via calls or individual emails is confidential and there will be no judgement if you need help with anything at all. Finances, food, heating, electricity, clothing etc. I haven't shared so much in terms of support on Twitter like I did in Lockdown 1, as we have a lot of the school with us, but we are still here for you all, whether your child is in school or not, and we do appreciate the ever-changing situations that you find yourselves in. Please do not worry alone, speak to the staff that call you, or contact me on my email or work mobile: [head@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:head@rigbyhall.worcs.sch.uk) or 07935 223378

We just keep going in school and doing as much as we can as safely as we can.

Thank you as ever for your continued and incredible support, on behalf of Team Rigby, we are very grateful.

Please take care, keep safe and keep well

Tracey



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