

Coronavirus Update

This has been another challenging week, which began on Sunday evening with the closure of one of our Year 5 class bubbles. On Monday evening we were required to close another Year 5 bubble. Since then there have been no further bubble closures, but there have been children and other family members of those already isolating who have tested positive. This is the first time that we have had to close any Year 5 bubbles.

In total there are six Year 5 children and two members of staff in the Year 5 team who have tested positive for Coronavirus. Thankfully, none of the children have been seriously ill, with the majority of those who have been symptomatic, only mildly impacted. We very much hope that both these bubbles will return to school next week – NC5 on Tuesday and CBAP5 on Friday. Both members of staff have been pretty poorly, with one still quite unwell. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to all concerned.

There is one other confirmed case for a child in Year 3. However, in this situation there was no contact in school as the child concerned was already isolating. This child is also completely fine and is returning to school on Monday. As things stand, there are no confirmed cases in any other year groups across our school.

The impact of school bubble closures is of course very much felt by the families and staff members affected. It is incredibly disruptive to learning, social development and life in general. We very much welcome how national attention has been drawn to this critical issue in recent days, and hope that we are soon enabled to operate without such austere measures being in place. The schools' minister, Nick Gibb, this week committed to publishing any changes to the current system before July 19th.

Until any changes come into effect though, I feel it is necessary to at least forewarn parents of the potential for further disruption to school life, especially given the prevalence of testing taking place within the community, rapidly rising positive test outcomes nationally and the reported transmissibility of the Delta variant.

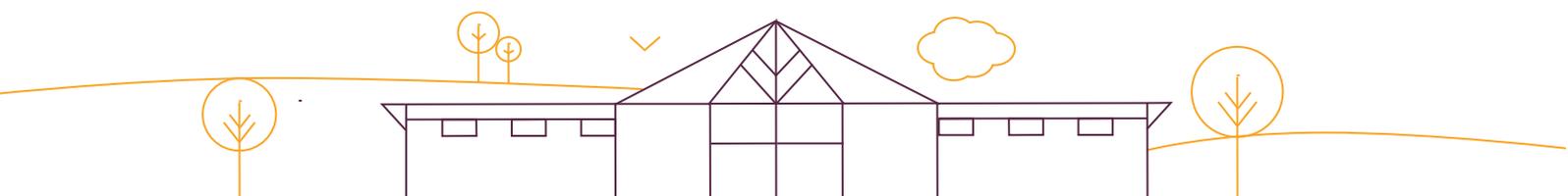
I am aware of concerns being raised by some parents about how information regarding Coronavirus cases is communicated by the school. We are of course familiar with the DfE template letter used by many schools. I have always taken the view that it is preferable to write in a more personalised format when reporting these matters to the community.

A concern has also been aired regarding the speed and frequency of communication. Whilst I fully recognise that newsletters (or emails) are sent somewhat sporadically or inconsistently, I don't feel this detracts from the depth of information and analysis of quite complex matters that is provided to parents. Quite often, our focus is more directed towards managing the circumstances of Coronavirus and speaking with the families/staff most immediately affected.

Sports Days

A massive thank you to the Year 1 and Year R families who have attended the first two sports day events organised this year. It has been an absolute delight to have parents back on the school site to attend events! Your feedback has been really lovely and we are glad that you felt completely safe whilst attending.

We very much look forward to the remaining sports days going ahead. In the *really long* newsletter I sent a couple of weeks ago, I said that we wouldn't be able to re-invite parents in the event that a particular sports day gets postponed due to the weather. However, given how popular and enjoyable these are proving to be, I



feel that we really must try to find a way of getting parents to the sports days. Therefore, any sports days cancelled next week will be rearranged along with a further invite for parents to attend.

Year 5 parents please note that your sports day has been rearranged for Tuesday 13th July 9.15am – 10.45am. Fingers crossed we have all our bubbles and pupils back to enjoy this along with the parents.

Kind regards,

Chris Reilly

