

Thursday, 12th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we are sure you have heard there have been a few schools that have had to close down specific year groups in and around the area and in Tibshelf Community School's case the whole school.

Our parents have been amazing, you have:

- isolated your children when you have developed symptoms and requested a test.
- isolated your children when following advice from Track and Trace
- kept us informed of symptoms
- kept children off school when symptoms may be developing
- requested tests when you have felt it necessary
- and kept the school informed.

*All of this has helped us keep your children in school, thank you **and please keep it up.***

However, just for clarity on the process for any 'bubble closure' decision:

- a. If a child has a positive COVID test we would then contact Public Health England East Midlands Office. We would discuss the school Risk Assessment, actions and specifics about the 'bubble' the pupil has been in. Together we will then assess the situation for the school, the bubble, the class and the staff in school.
- b. A decision is made whether we need to send any pupils and staff home. If this was the case we would expect parents to collect as quickly as possible. The class or 'bubble' of classes would then be asked to work from home for a set time period, probably 14 days including weekends. The children would be expected to 'isolate'.
- c. Brothers and sisters in other bubbles may continue to attend school (unless they or someone in the house develops COVID symptoms)
- d. We would provide work through Seesaw, this is likely to be Oak Academy with some additions adapted by class if the isolation is for the full 14 days.
- e. During this time the relevant classrooms and spaces would be deep cleaned.
- f. Pupils would return to school after the set time period.

We are expecting at some point that all schools will have some form of short 'bubble' lockdown during the next few months. The difficulty faced by Primary Schools, including us, will mainly be staffing. We must have enough staff to safely cover the classes and individual pupils and our staff face the same childcare issues that you do (there is no provision for key workers due to the 'bubbles' in other schools).

The purpose of a bubble lockdown is simply to limit the potential spread of COVID.

With Tibshelf Community School closing their buildings for 12 days (and remotely teaching their pupils) we would like to send a reminder of what we are doing in school:

- We stagger drop offs and collection times by class so that the entrances/exits to school are not crowded. *Can we remind you please not to send or bring Secondary School pupils for drop offs and collection. Having only one adult with your children maximises the potential for social distancing.*
- Lunch and break times are staggered through the day.
- We provide lunches in school with the intent on all children having access to regular hot meals. This will be monitored closely and if we need to switch to classrooms for lunch you will be informed.
- We minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (covid-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend settings. We will engage with the Track and Trace procedures and Public Health advice.
- All children follow regular, structured handwashing routines with the additional provision of sanitiser if required.
- We follow the government guidelines with regard to additional cleaning throughout the day at the same high level we have been following since June 1st.
- All rooms are well ventilated
- Sharing of equipment is minimised where possible. Equipment used by different classes will be cleaned before reuse.
- Movement around school is minimised and timings staggered wherever possible.
- Classes operate as 'bubbles' with another class during outside play and lunchtime to ensure a balance between minimising contact and providing social opportunities.
- Where specialist teaching of specific year groups is required we will minimise movement around school, etc. – this will be the case for Y3/4/5 maths, Y4 and Y5 music and in the medium term for Y5 when swimming potentially restarts.

The children have adapted well to these measures and the staff have been wonderful. The days have flown by with the children back in school and their enjoyment of school life has given everyone a lift. To that end we will do everything we can within our cautious and careful approach to keep them in school and safe.

Children in Need - Friday 13th November 2020

This year for Children in Need we are giving the children the option to come to school *wearing brightly coloured clothes on Friday*, for a suggested donation of £1 to Children in Need. We will not be able to accept any cash at school on the day, therefore please make your donation via link below. The donations will then be paid directly to the Charity via ParentPay.

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=1286>

Take care



Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team

Christmas

We will not be allowing children to bring Christmas Cards in to school for giving out, we are sure you understand this decision. The children will be making cards and calendars for home, these will be made ahead of time and only sent home after being isolated for a few days.

Reverend Lynn has started some virtual assemblies with us last week and will be supporting the school via a 'Christingle' virtual session in December. We will also be working with the church on another exciting project connecting the village community at Christmas.

We will be holding our usual Christmas Dinner as long as we can continue to safely serve hot lunches.

We will be holding Christmas Parties in our 'bubbles' but the food for these will be provided by school.

We are considering having an event for Christmas Jumper day, though we will hold this on the last day of term on Friday, 18th December **if we go ahead**. The school does worry about the costs of Christmas Jumpers (if the shops are open to sell them) when everyone is having to be careful at the moment. We will be in touch.

Dates

13th November – Children in Need Colourful Clothes Day

3rd December – Flu immunisations

4th December – Y6 Bikeability (currently still going ahead as an outside activity)

16th December – Christmas Dinner

18th December – last day of term, possible Christmas Jumper (or alternative) Day

2021

4th January – Inset Day (First Aid)

5th January – Inset Day (GDPR)

6th January – Children return to school

12th February – last day of term

22nd February – first day back at school

1st April (Thursday) - last day of term

19th April – first day back at school

3rd May – Bank Holiday May Day (one day only)

10th May to 13th May – SATs week

28th May – last day of term

7th June – first day back at school

25th June – Inset day

28th June – Inset day

7th, 8th and 9th July – Dukes Barn Residential Y6

13th & 14th July 2021 – Lea Green Residential (Year 1 only on 13th)

22nd July (Thursday) last day of term