

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now had the children back in school for an entire half term and it has been wonderful to see them all again. The children have come back to school showing great behaviour and are sticking to their year group bubbles very sensibly. We are all very proud of them.

Drop off and pick up times are running relatively smoothly now – thank you for working with us on this. We are aware that it is busy after school at the main gate and would request that parents do not arrive at school before their allocated home times in order to make social distancing easier.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate what to do if your child is ill or is self-isolating.

- If your child is displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or the loss or change to their sense of smell), please do not send them to school and request a test by calling 119 or arrange a test at one of the drive-in centres. Please let the school know the test results as soon as possible. If they develop one of these symptoms during the day, we will contact you and you will need to collect your child from school immediately.
- If your child has different symptoms e.g. a runny nose but no cough or temperature, please send them to school if they are well enough.
- Further details were published by the government on: <https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/09/04/coronavirus-transmission-in-schools-your-questions-answered/>.

Should your child have to self-isolate, please let us know immediately and the school will provide learning for them to do at home via MS Teams. This will be appropriate to the age of the child and any additional needs, but some general principles are outlined below:

- Home learning via MS Teams will be provided which should last for the duration of the isolation period. There will be learning in different areas of the school curriculum for the whole school day.
- We will be asking that the children upload their work back onto the MS Teams platform each day so that the teacher can check the learning and provide feedback as necessary.
- We will be in regular contact with you so please make sure that your email address and phone number are up-to-date and you look out for communications from school.

### **A lack of devices**

The Government have recently re-published an updated guide on reopening schools, which includes the provision of remote education

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>.

Unfortunately, the school has a limited number of school laptops and iPads for pupils to use at home as a resource for remote learning. In the event of a multiple bubble closure e.g. more than 1 bubble closing due to a reported case of COVID-19, the school will prioritise these devices to pupils who are in receipt of free school meals and to pupils who are classed as vulnerable. The school will consider giving devices to pupils on an individual needs' basis. We encourage parents and carers to have these discussions with their child's class teacher at their earliest convenience. In addition, the Government have advised that if parents cannot access an iPad or a laptop then '*schools can also remind pupils that access is also possible through large-screen smartphones*'.

We cannot predict the challenges that schools may face when pupils return after the half term break. We encourage parents to assess their access to online devices in their homes and contact their child's class teacher well in advance to discuss this provision.

Children return to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Have a safe half term.

Kind Regards,  
Dr M Maher  
Iqra School Headteacher