

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Enhanced COVID 19 safety measures in place beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021**

We recognise how difficult the past 18 months have been with COVID 19 and the sacrifices that all families, education and childcare settings have had to make. Although this has been an enormously challenging time for everyone, we would like to take the opportunity once again to thank you for everything you have done as a school community.

I am writing to you in response to the attached letter which the East Berkshire Health Authority and Slough Borough Council have asked be sent to all parents in the local area. As you may know, some schools in Slough have already needed to close class bubbles, year groups, or send home a small number of pupils to self- isolate. We have not yet needed to do this even though we have had a number of positive cases. However, it is important to recognise that everyone's health and safety is of the utmost importance.

Following the government and local (Slough Borough Council) guidelines, if we are notified that a child (or staff member) has tested positive, we will:

- Engage with the relevant bodies for further advice (DfE, Local Public Health Team, Local Authority)
- Communicate promptly with families (do check we have the up to date email address for any letters we are sending home)
- Speak with the family who have had the positive test result
- Communicate promptly with families who have children in the same bubble, and pass on the advice that we have been given
- It is our understanding that currently only those first contacts, or close contacts who may need to isolate for the period—but we will always take our advice on this from the DfE/PHT

- Provide learning for those children who are unable to come to school, but are well and needing to isolate
- Continue contact with those pupils who are at home and unable to come to school

In order to:

- **continue** to ensure the health and safety of our pupils, staff and parents
- **reduce** the risk of transmission of COVID 19
- **not** compromise the high quality of teaching and learning presently occurring in our school

Iqra school will be putting in a number of **further enhanced measures** in addition to the regular hand washing, additional cleaning and effective ventilation across the school. **From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November** the following safety measures MUST be followed:

### TIMINGS

We know that the staggered start and finish times were an effective strategy to reduce the transmission of COVID 19. We will once again reintroduce the staggered timings for pupils in order to be a COVID safe school.

Year group	Morning drop off	End of day pick up
EYFS (entry and exit via the school hall)	8.30am	2.45pm
Year 6 (entry and exit via the new gate)	8.30am	3.00pm
Year 5 (entry and exit via the new gate)	8.30am	3.00pm
Year 4 (entry and exit via the new gate)	8.40am	2:50pm
Year 3 (entry and exit via the main gate)	8.40am	2:50pm
Year 2 (entry and exit via the main gate)	8.50am	3:05pm
Year 1 (entry and exit via the main gate)	8.50am	3:05pm

Siblings can be collected at the same time from their specified collection point. For example, when parents collect their children from Reception or Year 3 and Year 4 at

2:50pm, they can collect their children from the other year groups as well. However, if children **do not** have siblings they must be collected **at their allocated times**. We are trying to make this work for everyone. We can all help one another by:

- Keeping to the times given as closely as possible
- Leaving the area as soon as possible

### **FACE COVERINGS**

Wearing a face covering and respecting physical distancing will be mandatory. All adults entering the school playground **MUST** wear a face mask unless they are medically exempt. No adult is allowed to enter the school building at any time including when dropping off children. In order to keep everyone safe please maintain your social distance from one another on the playground.

Together we can protect each other and the rest of our community.

### **MEETINGS WITH TEACHERS**

From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November all meetings with teachers will be done via MS TEAMS. If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, then please can you e-mail them directly. They will then either give you a phone call or arrange a meeting via MS TEAMS. The class teachers will be in touch with all parents personally with details on how to contact them, including sharing their e-mail addresses.

### **CLASS BUBBLES**

There will be no change to the classes as pupils have been in the 'bubbles' since they started in September 2021. However, break and lunch times will be affected. Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) will continue to eat their lunch in the dining hall. Pupils in Key Stage 2 (Years 3 – 6) will have lunch in their classes. All pupils will have a break in the playground in their 'class bubbles'.

### **EXTENDED SCHOOL PROVISION**

There will be no change to the after-school clubs or the booster classes. Swimming will also continue for the allocated year groups. Pupils who are collected late will automatically be placed into the Late Collection Club and parents will be charged accordingly via ParentPay.

### **REMOTE LEARNING OFFER**

We will continue to offer Remote Learning to all pupils who have to self-isolate at home. MS TEAMS will continue to be the learning platform of choice and pupils will be given the opportunity to attend the virtual classroom daily. If parents require a device to access their virtual learning, then please e-mail the school office on

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*We Learn, We Lead, We Inspire*

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[office@iqra.slough.sch.uk](mailto:office@iqra.slough.sch.uk). Please note that a remote learning device will only be offered to those pupils who have either tested positive for COVID 19 or have been identified by track and trace and told to self-isolate at home.

I appreciate that for some parents collecting children from other schools in Slough can pose many challenges. However, we endeavour to continually monitor how our enhanced safety measures impacts the school community and will change the current measures if needed. I will update you all with any further updates from East Berkshire Health Authority or from Slough Borough Council as soon as we receive them.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Mineza Maher  
Iqra School Head teacher

