

Shaw Wood Academy

INSPIRE-DISCOVER-CHALLENGE

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Campbell

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30th September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Update – Covid-19

Parents are aware that we had to close four classes this week because, at the time I contacted you all on Monday, two members of staff had tested positive for Covid-19.

Later that day a further member of staff tested positive and yesterday another staff member. I can confirm that all staff members that have tested positive are from the bubbles that have already been sent home. This demonstrates that the systems to segregate children within school are effective. The fact that there has been contamination between staff is, I am afraid, indicative of the fact that it is almost impossible to maintain social distancing when working with very young children. Unfortunately, it is a fact that children can often carry the virus and not demonstrate symptoms – making the job of teaching particularly challenging.

Some parents are concerned that siblings of those that are asked to self-isolate are still being allowed to come to school. In making this decision we are following the strict guidance given to us by the government and Public Health England. I do however totally understand your concerns so I have again contacted these agencies and the Local Authority and have been assured that the guidance remains the same and that risk of transmission is minimal.

Additionally, some parents have expressed a wish to be informed on a more regular basis of the situation linked to positive tests in school. Whilst this request may seem straightforward and reasonable to those outside school, we are working in a constantly changing situation in school. We are encouraging as many people as possible to take tests, often as a precaution and to keep your children as safe as we can. This means that, in any one day, a number of tests can be outstanding, some will be returned negative and some positive and the results come through to our office at different times. For this reason, I will update parents as frequently as is practical. Of course, if infection spreads outside the bubbles that are presently isolating, I will inform all families immediately.

I have always tried extremely hard to communicate as clearly and regularly as possible throughout the pandemic. Please be assured that I will continue to do so and that, though some parents may feel communication has been less than parents may expect this week, there will be circumstances that you may not be aware of that need clarification before I write.

Finally, and on a slightly different subject, all parents for children in present Years 1 - 6 will receive a brief report about their child this week. The report will outline how children have settled and where we evaluate their learning to be on return. Some children will be assessed as working below the standard we would usually expect for a child their age. This may, or may not be, lock-down linked. I realise that parents will want more information about the stages of learning children are at. This information will be shared in more detail at our first Parent's Evening in November when we anticipate many of the children will have begun to make accelerated progress and will have made up much of the lost ground from the previous six months.

Yours faithfully

Jo Campbell
Executive Headteacher

