



2nd November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope that you've all had a safe and enjoyable half term holiday. Last half term, was a long 7 weeks and the children worked so hard and did so well to get used to new routines and procedures. I was delighted with attendance figures which rose week by week to over 95% across PDP which is fantastic. I know we were all ready for a break.

With national and local levels of Covid rising and the Prime Minister's announcement over the weekend of another national lockdown from Thursday, I felt it was time for a Covid update. I've always tried to be honest that we cannot eradicate the risk of catching Covid at school but we have done all we can to minimise the risk. I would like to thank the whole PDP community for working so hard to support us with this. Year groups are in bubbles, classrooms have been reorganised, the school day now includes frequent handwashing and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and timings and routines within the day have been adjusted to minimise mixing between bubbles. We have put a lot of measures in place to safeguard our community. These measures have been guided by the government guidance and what is right for our community at PDP. Below is a list of the measures we have in place along with some updates that reflect the current situation.

- **You must ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms (high temperature, new and persistent cough or loss of taste and smell), your child does NOT attend school and you should arrange for the person with symptoms to have a test.** Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. If a negative test result is received your child may return to school. **If anyone in your household, or your child, tests positive for COVID-19 you MUST inform us immediately.** During school hours, 8.30am-3.30pm, please contact the school office. If a case is confirmed out of school hours, including weekends and holidays, please contact us via our school website <https://www.pdp.w-berks.sch.uk/> and then click on contact us and you are able to email the headteacher. Please make sure that you give us a contact number as we will need to phone you to get additional information.
- **Attendance at school remains compulsory** for the vast majority of children. If your child is unwell for any reason please continue to inform us in the usual way.
- If your child is absent from school, we are providing **weekly home learning for pupils via our website.** Click on the Home Learning tab and there is a general page which gives you more information about how this works as well as a tab for each year group. New work will be uploaded weekly and will mirror the work completed in school.
- **Year groups continue to operate as 'bubbles'.** We have structured the school and the school day to minimise contact between these groups.
- We ask that adults **socially distance themselves whilst on site.** To help with this we ask that only one adult brings your child to school. We also ask that you socially

distance yourself when you are talking to staff and they will do the same. The one way system at the infant school remains in place.

- **Pupils do not need to wear face coverings in school.** The current government advice is quite clear that this is not necessary for primary aged pupils. If face coverings are used on public transport to get to school, they must be removed and safely disposed of or stored before entry to the building. **However, we now ask adults on site to wear a face covering.** This means if you are dropping or picking up a child and you enter the site please wear a face covering unless you are exempt (outside and inside). You will notice that staff have started wearing face coverings while on duty outside in the morning. However, it is not compulsory for staff to wear masks whilst teaching.
- Your child is still expected to continue to follow stricter, age appropriate, behaviour rules relating to physical contact with other pupils, and keeping their hands clean. Our usual school rules have been replaced with 3 simple rules: **be kind, be safe, be respectful.** We often have to remind children that they shouldn't be having close physical contact with each other, especially when they are playing, and we would appreciate if you could remind your child of this. Games of tag are allowed as the contact is minimal but we have had to speak to children about rolling around on the floor with each other and rough play. Pupils will also still be expected to wash their hands regularly with soap and water. **Please do not send your child in with hand sanitiser.**
- As the weather gets colder, **our school kitchen** is now providing hot school dinners each day. We emailed out a new menu at the end of last term. **Children are also still able to bring in a packed lunch.**
- **Children still need a named water bottle.** Bottles should only be filled with water.
- Children in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a free **snack** at playtime and **Cool milk** will continue. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 will still need a small, **healthy snack for playtime.** Sadly, the tuck shop has not yet reopened. No chocolate or crisps for snack time please.
- In order to maintain **social distancing during social times**, the playground and field remain zoned. Lunch time and play times are still staggered and children are not able to mix with children from another year group at playtime or lunchtime. It remains really important that your child stays within the area that they are allocated.
- **Pupils are still expected to wear school uniform.** We have increased the ventilation in school by opening more windows and doors than you might expect at this time of year. Your child might therefore benefit from an extra layer under their school uniform as classes are colder than they might be used to. We also ask that they bring **a coat each** day as we are trying to get outside as much as possible.
- All children will need to bring their **P.E. kit** into school and this also needs to be kept in school.
- **Apart from these items, your child's pencil case and reading book. Please can you minimise the items that are brought into school on a daily basis.**

We understand that this looks like a huge list of rules and we will continue to update you as we receive further advice and guidance from the Local Authority and the government. In the meantime, please do contact us if there is anything we can do to support you and your family through these very challenging times.

With my very best wishes,

Mrs Catherine Bull
Head teacher
Parsons Down Partnership