



## St Mary & St Pancras C. E. Primary School

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Headteacher **Jules Belton**, Deputy Headteacher: **Lucy Heard**  
Assistant Headteacher: **Lesley Carneiro**

7<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Covid 19 Protocol Update,**

Throughout the pandemic, the school has upheld a very strict risk assessment and until last week, had only sent one bubble home.

This morning a parent questioned the school's protocol and communication about the return date of the class currently working at home. Can I remind you all that this information was in the letter which each child was given and has also been communicated by the staff supporting children working remotely. Every parent is given the same information at the same time.

If we have a report of a positive case, we contact Public Health England immediately and follow their advice to the letter. The school does not have the power, nor wishes to make decisions outside of the advice from PHE. This is what happens:

- The school consults with PHE and answers a series of questions around the case and identifies who are close contacts. This takes a long time but is very thorough.
- The school is unable to tell parents details of the case-only that there is one in the community.
- The school identifies all known close contacts of the case according to strict criteria, and these contacts are written to and by law, have to self-isolate. The dates for returning to school are carefully calculated by PHE and all close contacts are told of this date. The rest of the school is written to and told that there is a case but there is no need for anyone to isolate as close contacts have already been identified. The letters sent out are PHE letters.
- All close contacts are asked to take a PCR test and report the result to the school. This is a recent Government requirement and cannot be legally enforced, but we consider it helpful to know if the virus has spread amongst the bubble and ask for your cooperation in this.
- Families of those children in self-isolation do not need to self-isolate unless they have symptoms or test positive-however clearly, someone needs to look after them at home. We are sorry for this but our hands are tied.

Cont'd.



- Children in classes who are sent home will receive daily education through Google Classroom. Teachers will ensure that all children have access and the school will arrange for laptops to be sent to all families who need one. These laptops are only to be used for education purposes and must be returned to the school. A paper pack is available on request.
- If the teacher is unwell and unable to deliver remote education, then the school will prepare a timetable of learning to be accessed through the Oak Academy and other internet links.
- Once the self-isolation period is over the children and any laptops they have, come back to school.

I sincerely wish I had a crystal ball to be able to anticipate what the next few weeks looked like. Like all Headteachers and parents alike, I want the school term to end as normally as possible. Thank you to those parents who have voiced their appreciation for the work of the school over the past 18 months. Today we are seven members of staff down and yet everyone is working their socks off to keep our brilliant school as normal as possible for the children.

Please read any letters you are given and keep an eye on the Parent Hub App/email. When we know what the next steps are, I will update the Risk Assessment and send to you all.

Very best wishes to you and your families,



Jules Belton  
Headteacher