



Bardsey Primary School
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Acting Headteacher: Mark Knight

Monday 28th September 2020

Dear Parents or Carers,

I can only think that when the Government planned their guidance for the full return for schools in September that they assumed that Test, Track and Trace would be up and running effectively and the incidents of COVID-19 would be managed in some way. Unfortunately, that is not the case and schools across the country are having to close bubbles far earlier than had been anticipated.

On Friday we had to close the first bubble in school because of a positive case. It will not be the last, and like you, we are learning about the process as we go along. Fortunately, due to our strict bubble protocols, the Year 3 children have not mixed with other classes in school and other classes are not impacted. I am pleased to say that the person in question is well on the mend, but it does mean that Year 3 cannot be in school until Monday October 5th at the earliest. If your child develops symptoms whilst they are isolating, they will still need to get a test and your family will need to isolate. Please do inform us of any children who are getting a test, when they get it and it is essential that we know the outcome of the test whether positive or negative as part of the Test, Track and Trace process.

School contacted parents as soon as we were aware of the result on Friday and aware of the need to close the bubble to prevent further risk of cross infection. The letters that were sent were from Public Health England (even though they had a school letterhead) from whom we can only seek guidance through office hours. Thank you for your prompt action in keeping your child away from school at such short notice. Some staff are having to isolate too now which means we are having to utilise other staff more widely. Please be patient with us if reading books for example, cannot be changed as staff are spread more thinly.

In terms of educational provision for those children isolating, we are still working through our training to get more targeted learning online and a primary ICT company is currently setting up Google Classroom for us. It is a huge challenge doing all this as we help the children settle into our new routines and reconnect after such a long time apart for some. We aim to build this capacity as the term develops. Miss Gaynor will be in touch with Y3 this week while they are away from school, and there is work on the website now as well as a couple of video lessons. As time goes on, we are hoping to tailor this more for individual needs but please bear with us as we get this off the ground. In terms of children's siblings, they only have to isolate if someone in their house is showing symptoms or has tested positive.



As a school community it is essential that we work together, and thank you for your words of encouragement when I have been stood at the school gate recently on a morning or I see you on the playground after school. These are much appreciated and I have fed them back to staff. I do think all this will become a way of school life over the coming months as with some of the other adjustments that we have had to make since March.

Best wishes

M. J. Knight

Acting Head