



Whitefield

Schools

A member of
Whitefield Academy Trust

28th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I am writing with an update on the situation in school.

As most of you will know, since the beginning of term there have been three confirmed cases of C19 in the school community. On each occasion Kirstie, our new CEO, and I have spoken to Public Health England and to the public health and education leads in the local authority for advice and together we have made the decision that the only safe thing to do was to close all or part of different 'bubbles' for periods of time.

I realise that it has been very difficult for those of you who have had to keep your children at home when they have only just returned to school and I can only sympathise. However, we all have to follow the medical guidance that, if anyone has been in contact with someone who has C19, they must stay at home and self-isolate for 14 days from the time of that contact. This is what we need to do as a school to keep everyone as safe as we can.

I am grateful to the staff in school who are working hard to keep everyone within the right 'bubbles', to keep everywhere as clean as they can and to support our children and young people to keep learning and enjoying school even with the different arrangements. We are keeping staff within 'bubbles' as well as children, other than those few staff like myself who have a role across the school. Adults are now wearing face coverings as they move around school and using PPE where there is a risk of transmitting Covid. If you want to know more about these arrangements, please ask your child's Head of School or speak to Steph or Lesley in our Family Support Team.

Teachers are also working hard to prepare home learning activities for any children who do need to self-isolate for a while. They will talk to you about the best way for your child to learn at home. Children need to continue their education at this time so please work with your child to help them with the activities which their teacher sends and please read with your child every day or share a story – talk to their teacher for ideas! If you do not have the right IT equipment to support your child, please let us know and it may be possible to loan equipment to you.

If any children who usually have free school meals are in a 'bubble' which needs to close, we will provide supermarket vouchers to cover the cost of those meals.

Meanwhile, please help us to keep everyone safe by:

- encouraging your child to wash their hands regularly and to use a tissue if they need to blow their nose
- encouraging your child to socially distance if they can

- keeping your child at home if they are unwell
- letting the school know if your child has any of the three main symptoms of C19. – a high temperature, a new persistent cough or a change in their ability to taste or smell
- letting the school know if anyone in your household has a confirmed case of C19 and keeping your child at home

I enclose a letter from NHS England with further information about C19.

Please see our website for more updates and frequently asked questions and please join our online sessions for parents – dates to be shared very soon.

Best wishes,

Laura Pease
Principal