



Whitefield

Schools

A member of
Whitefield Academy Trust

7th December 2020

Dear parents,

I am writing with some information about the last two weeks of term but first I would like to thank you all for working with us throughout the term through difficult circumstances. I have been very pleased at the level of attendance and pleased, too, to see the children and young people's positive approach to their life in school.

I know that parents will join me in thanking all staff for their hard work during the term to teach and care for your children and particularly for their efforts in putting the Covid 19 arrangements in place. Although we have had some Covid cases in the school community, the 'bubble' arrangements have reduced the number of pupils who have had to self-isolate at any one time. I do understand the difficulties when your child has to stay at home or to self-isolate and we are making every effort to keep children in school – however we must follow the guidance from Public Health to keep everyone as safe as we can.

May I remind you of the arrangements in place:

- expecting everyone to be very careful with basic hygiene – washing hands, using sanitiser, using tissues and keeping surfaces and equipment clean
- dividing the school into 'bubbles' with one 'bubble' in each building where children work and play together
- not having large gatherings such as assemblies
- encouraging social distancing where we can, although we know that our children will find it very difficult and that many children need close support from the adults who work with them
- expecting adults, and those secondary aged children who can do so, to wear face coverings as they move around school
- adults using PPE where this will reduce the chance of infection
- making changes to the way we teach some lessons to reduce contact
- expecting all visitors to the school, including parents, to wear face coverings

We are also now keeping windows open around the school to improve ventilation. This means that classrooms may be colder than usual so please dress your child more warmly or send an extra jumper or cardigan into school.

Please do not send your child to school if they, or anyone else in the household, has COVID 19 or is showing any of the symptoms which are:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- a loss of smell or taste

and please let us know if your child, or anyone else in the household, is self-isolating.

If we have any concerns about your child's health while they are in school, we will contact you straight away. Please make sure that we have up to date contact details.

Although the end of term and Christmas events are rather different this year, the Christmas trees and other decorations are going up as usual and there will still be time for parties, carols and other celebrations. Friday 11th December will be a special day when we hope everyone will come into school wearing their **Christmas jumpers** – there will be prizes for the most festive outfit and our kitchen team will be serving Christmas lunch. On the last day of term – 18th December – classes will enjoy an online disco.

I am pleased to say that Waltham Forest will be using some of its additional winter funding to provide vouchers equal to the cost of school meals for all children who receive free school meals. The vouchers will be sent electronically from school as they have been in the past.

Parents who have attended their child's Person Centred Reviews this term will have seen that we now measure progress using 'Milestones' developed by the school instead of P-levels and National Curriculum levels. The milestones link to the school curriculum and so we believe they give a better measure of progress. The Family Support Team will be arranging a workshop early next term to explain more.

It only remains for me to wish you all a happy break, whether quieter or more lively, and to look forward to what we hope will be a positive New Year.

School ends on Friday 18th December and the children return to school on Tuesday 5th January.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Pease
Principal