

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020



*Challenge, Equality & Opportunity*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well. Thank you again for your support and cooperation this week. Everyone has very quickly got used to the new routines and procedures which are enabling school to run smoothly under the current conditions. As the North East has now become subject to new regulations, we have even more to adjust to. The new regulations don't affect school or attendance but I am sure that many of our families, including staff, are going to have additional challenges in terms of childcare arrangements as well as the challenges of not being able to spend time with friends and families. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few procedures which are in place to keep us all safe.

### **Social Distancing and Safety on Site**

As the number of infections in Newcastle continues to grow, we all need to make every effort to make sure that we do everything possible to keep our community safe. We want to keep children in school and reduce the number of potential infected people as low as possible. Please remember to:

- Use **ONLY** the Broadway East gate to enter and leave the site. We have asked St Oswald's Primary School to remind their parents and carers to only use their own gates too.
- Arrive at school no earlier or later than the time which you have been given for your child's class.
- Avoid gathering at any point on site or around the site, particularly at the gates as this area is narrow and therefore makes social distancing difficult.
- Some of our parents and carers (at Broadway East and Gosforth Park) have asked us whether they should be wearing face coverings when on the school site. Although this is not currently Government advice, we understand that some of our partner schools in the Trust and across Newcastle are now asking parents and carers to wear face masks/coverings when on school sites to drop off and pick up children. Given the rise in local cases and the enhanced local restrictions introduced today, we are now encouraging all parents and carers to wear face coverings when on the school site. However, I must stress that this is your own choice and we will not be enforcing this procedure.

### **Waiting on Site**

We appreciate that, due to sanitising on the way in, it takes a little longer for the children to enter school than previously. If you do have to wait on site, please remember that if you have younger siblings with you, they must be in pushchairs, being carried or holding your hand. Children waiting to come in should also be standing near to you. School aged children and preschool children should not be running around the site or playing on the climbing equipment. Thank you for your support with this, we appreciate that it is not easy for the children to understand and we will reinforce the message in school too.

### **Testing**

Lots of children, parents and siblings have had tests this week and most have unfortunately experienced some difficulty in booking tests. Thank you for persevering and for keeping us up to date with your appointments and results. If you do receive a positive result, please let us know immediately by telephone. If you receive news of a positive test at the weekend, please use the Notify Absence section on the ParentMail app, this will be monitored from home by the office staff (they cannot remotely access the school absence voicemail). This way, we can make arrangements and decisions about the next steps and whether other children or members of staff need to self-isolate. Thank you.

## Achievers' Certificates

Next week, we are beginning our Achievers' Assemblies again – remotely! Members of staff will continue to nominate children and then children will be able to watch and listen on the classroom smartboards to all of the names and achievements. Classes will celebrate the achievements in their own ways and the office staff will send an electronic certificate home via ParentMail. If you cannot print the certificate and you would like a paper copy, then please send an email to the school office so we can arrange to send one home.

## Learning@Home

If your child is currently self-isolating then teachers will be setting work on Seesaw. This will be as close as possible to the activities in school and staff will endeavour to feedback to children and make it as meaningful as possible. In the cases of a whole class bubble self-isolating, there will be a fuller offer of learning on Seesaw (or Tapestry for Reception) because the class teacher will not be teaching full time in school. We are currently working on what this will look like and making sure that it will be ready to deliver from day one if we find ourselves in that position.

Finally, we must say again how delighted we are with how well the children have started this term. The days in school are busy, happy and full of learning – just as they should be!



We will be in touch early next week with details of parents/carers' evening phone call appointments and arrangements. In the meantime, I hope that you all have a good weekend, even if it is perhaps a little quieter than you might have been planning!

Best wishes

Helen McKenna  
Headteacher