



Lavant

C.E. Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Adrian King B.A Hons (QTS) NPQH

West Stoke Road
Lavant Chichester
West Sussex PO18 0BW

Tel: 01243 527382 Fax: 01243 530677

E-mail: office@lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

Website: www.lavant.w-sussex.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers,

The government has now announced the new tier system for the run-up to Christmas this year and I am sure you, like us, are all looking forward to hopefully being able to see family and friends over the festive season. At school, we are all minimising risks with our actions and we are grateful for you all keeping a safe distance apart at school drop off and pick up times. However, this is a tricky virus and although we have been extremely lucky not to have had any positive cases so far this academic year, many other local schools are experiencing positive cases despite taking precautions. Although the positive cases have dropped slightly this week in Chichester, they have been slowly rising for the past few weeks. In the run up to Christmas therefore, in a further attempt to enable all of us to reach the end of term with no positive cases and be able to see our loved ones at Christmas, **from Monday 30th, we are asking everyone to take one step further by wearing a mask/face covering when dropping off and collecting your children.** We also ask that you keep your children with you at the start and end of day and not allow them to run around and play with other children, particularly if they are from another family or bubble.

It is almost inevitable that our school will be affected at some point and the likely impact of a positive case is that the whole 'bubble' will close whilst we, and you, isolate and get tested. In some cases, where schools can guarantee that a child has only mixed closely with a small number of others, then the local Public Health England advisors could advise us to keep a bubble open and only those few pupils would need to be tested. This is not what I expect to happen at Lavant: I fully anticipate closing a whole bubble if, and when, we have a positive case in school.

In order to maintain our quality learning opportunities and high standards, our younger children are collaborating and interacting for a large part of each day. Our older pupils however are sat in rows and move around less, but are still near to one another. If we need to temporarily close a bubble, then we will do all we can to welcome children back as soon as it is safe, and we will do all we can to support your children with home learning. In line with current guidelines, we are also ensuring that teaching spaces are well ventilated, and that there is a constant flow of air in each room. As winter approaches, all teaching spaces are becoming significantly cooler than usual. **Therefore, if your child is feeling the cold, they are very welcome to wear a plain grey or white long sleeved top underneath their school t-shirt. Please can you also ensure that your child has a coat in school at all times.**

Dogs

As a dog lover and owner of a dog myself, I do understand why many are choosing to bring their dog with them on the school run. We have always had a no dog policy on the school grounds, but in the past, have been lenient in allowing parents to tie up their dogs at the front of the school whilst they walked around the back to collect their child. Now the front of the school is the main area in which all parents and children are congregating, a number of concerns have been raised that the number of dogs on the premises is causing significant anxiety for some children (and parents). **I therefore ask all dog owners to be understanding of this and leave their dogs at home.**

Christmas

We are so disappointed that this year we will not be able to run many of our usual festive activities, however, we will still ensure the children have a fantastic time in the run up to Christmas. I will be writing to you in the next week with further details on the events we are planning.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we work hard to ensure the safety and well-being of our school community.

Best wishes,

