

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Primary Coronavirus update**

I last wrote to you on 21<sup>st</sup> January to keep you informed on the current situation in our primary schools regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. As part of my regular communication procedures I thought I would provide a further update.

Staff are now successfully conducting regular Lateral Flow Device testing as an additional control measure to help break the chain of infection. To date we have not had a single positive test result returned across all our schools. Hopefully this raises confidence amongst our staff, children and the wider school communities that our steps to keep schools safe and operating well are working.

I am sure you will have seen the announcement this week from the Prime Minister that schools will not reopen fully before 8 March at the earliest. Remote learning will continue throughout this period. As staff become more confident in this new way of working we are seeing some highly innovative practice in the use of technology to aid children's learning.

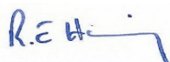
Schools will also remain open for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. As each school context, buildings and parental body are different across our schools, the exact arrangements for each school vary widely. Some schools have 45% children attending on site provision and need all staff in school to ensure effective safety measures and education. Others have far fewer attending. For some schools, a rota system may be in place with some staff working from home for a period of time.

Each headteacher will make decisions on how the education is provided in school and remotely, in liaison with the Trust. This will lead to different arrangements across schools and even in a school for different year groups. In some circumstances this may require limiting the number of children in a specific year group based on the criteria circulated in my earlier letters.

The government also announced that schools will be closed for February half term. Each school will communicate to you their own arrangements for any half term holiday schemes.

I hope you find this update useful as we go forward in this ever changing situation.

Best wishes



Rob Haring  
**CEO WeST**

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