



21st October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first term with all pupils returning to New Close for their education, my overwhelming feeling is one of both pride and relief. Pride for the way the children have adapted to the changes that have been made in school, and the way they have embraced the opportunity to be back learning with their peers. Pride for the way the staff have again adapted to a new way of working and the additional stresses of working in schools at this time. Relief that as yet, we have seen no positive cases of Covid19 within the school community and that staff and pupils are safe, with the quality of education remaining strong. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who have had to make the difficult decision to take their child for a test or who have collected pupils showing symptoms with tremendous respect and understanding for the position of the school.

Having said this, we are certainly not allowing complacency to set in. The day-to-day practices within the school are under constant review and as the national and local picture changes, we may need to make further adaptations to how the school operates to keep everyone safe.

As I mentioned, several children have had to miss school this term to seek a Covid19 test, with a few children having to isolate for 2 weeks. This has highlighted a need for parents to be able to contact the school outside of working hours, if someone in their household was seeking a test or had received results (both positive or negative). I would appreciate that from this point, parents use **both** the following email addresses to share this information at the earliest opportunity, including throughout the holidays and weekends:

head@newclose.wilts.sch.uk

office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk

Please note the importance of regularly checking your emails (including the weekly newsletter), looking at the class pages on the website and loading TEAMS onto a device at home. This is our main source of delivering information to the parent body and especially in these times.

We appreciate your support in all these matters and lastly, I would like to wish you all a restful half-term break and hope you continue to stay safe and well.

Kind regards

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