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Mr Blackmore's Weekly Briefing

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Firstly, my apologies for this week's briefing being so late. During the school closure period, it is my full intention to maintain a pattern of communication but sometimes (especially during the last twelve months!) events crop up and curtail even the most honest of intentions...

Anyway, we hope you are all well and enjoyed the glimmer of snow from the weekend. As much as we may want to climb the nearest hill, this winter's snow had to be enjoyed a lot more locally but this didn't take anything away from the magic of falling snow!

COVID Cases

You will know from my more official letters that we have a couple of COVID cases now in and around the school – the more recent resulting in the closure of our Year One provision.

Many of you will be able to tell, perhaps, that these letters are templates given to the school on confirmation of a case. I do add sentences, where applicable, particularly around context of the case but on the whole these are standard letters from Public Health England.

As we have had a couple of cases, part of my Saturday morning conversation with PHE was around whether there is a link between the cases, as this has a potential impact on the whole school. I want to reassure you that, at this moment, there is no link between the cases.

Although I am aware of my repeated message, it only reminds us that any critical worker spaces should only be utilised if absolutely necessary. During school closure, we are keen to reduce numbers in school as much as possible.

Remote Learning

Staff continue to work hard on the remote learning offer – we are seeing some fantastic learning taking place remotely so thank you for all your hard work at home.

Outside of their teaching hours, teachers are working in groups of three (virtually) to share best practice and learn from each other. As the teachers work in year group bubbles, these working groups have staff from across the other phases of the school so they can learn from older/younger provision. This is proving useful and is being done in addition to Trust-wide training for the staff.

We do still have access to some technology. If you have siblings sharing devices or are using your mobile phone etc. please let us know and we may be able to help you.

When is it All Going to End?

This is a question being asked in media a lot this week. As you will have gathered from the school closure announcement, we find out when you do! What we do know is that we are looking forward to having all the children back in as soon as it is safe to do so. We are already starting to shift some of our thinking to the future to think about the planned curriculum upon the children's return.



However long we have to endure this, please be kind to yourselves and know that what you are doing is good enough.

We are all here to support you. Whether that is support with remote learning, Free School Meals, food bank vouchers or child/adult mental health, we can directly help or at least find a way of signposting support for you.

And Finally...

If you have any learning from home that the children would like me to see, please do email the office. I'd be only too pleased to be able to print it off and stick it to my wall...

Have a good week!

Best wishes

James Blackmore
Headteacher

