

‘Achieving Excellence through Leadership’

GILES JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss. L. Whitby

Friday, 22 January 2021

Dear Families,

It has been a busy week so far, with the planning for the implementation of the Primary COVID testing program, which begins with staff next week, and also the submission of our Spring term Census. It is also a sombre week, as earlier this week, we saw the highest number of deaths on any day (as a result of COVID) so far. Thank you to you all for only using the provision onsite when you cannot work from home, as this has really helped to reduce the risk onsite for your children and staff and allowed staff to focus more on children working from home too.

We have now received more information about how we will need to manage the testing program -

- Our first testing evening will be Wednesday 27th January
- Staff who are not shielding and working on site will test at home twice a week with a Lateral Flow Device.
- If they have a negative test they will come into work as normal.
- If they take two tests (one after the other) and get ‘void’ results they will go and get a PCR (test at a centre) and they will have to self isolate alongside their household until the result is known. We will then risk assess bubbles that may be affected and communicate any instructions.
- If they get a positive result, they will need to get a PCR (test at a centre) and they will have to self isolate alongside their household. We will then risk assess bubbles that may be affected and communicate any instructions.

We have thought carefully about when we choose to do the tests for our staff and have chosen the option that we hope will keep bubbles open, will inform Critical Workers ASAP of any bubble changes and also help to manage the additional workload that is now being placed on staff to manage this. This timetable will be trialed for two weeks initially.

Therefore, from next week:

We will test on Sunday, early evening and Wednesday evening. This means that bubbles should not be closed as a result of the test- if we get any positive/double voids on a Sunday as the member of staff will not have contact with their bubble for 48 hours. However, staffing will remain a challenge and we can only run bubbles if we have a safe operational capacity on site (right number of qualified staff to run them) so this doesn't mean that bubbles will not close on a Monday despite our choice of testing times.



The Wednesday test is more likely to close bubbles as a result of the test, as children will have had contact with adults in the last 48 hours.

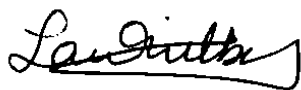
It is really important that adults who have children in school for the following week check their emails from the School Gateway on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday. It would also be helpful if you can check in with other Critical Worker and Vulnerable children parents to make sure they know about the changes. We will not have time to phone every parent individually. We will only communicate with you if your bubble is affected. Emails should not be sent past 8pm (no news is good news).

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms please continue to act on the side of caution and get them tested and don't come to school. We really welcome this testing program as another way to keep us all safer on site. Our catering staff and teaching students will also be participating in this testing program alongside us, to ensure consistency across our team.

We hope you all remain safe and well at home and hope this extra layer of protection will further reduce infection rates so that restrictions can be eased.

Yours sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Whitby', written in a cursive style.

Miss Louise Whitby
Headteacher