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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in following our protocols.

I would like to reassure you that we are continuing to work hard to ensure the necessary safety measures are in place. The rise in the 'R number' for the whole country - which identifies if the spread of the virus is under control - means we must all play our part, now more than ever, to protect our families and the school community. It remains essential that we all continue to socially distance ourselves, especially during drop off and collection times.

We are adapting our procedures to ensure that all families receive as much notice as possible just in case a class or group of children needs to self-isolate for 14 days. You have been fantastic so far at keeping the school informed if your child or anyone in your family is being tested; please continue to advise us so that we can keep our records up to date and alert families of vulnerable pupils. Should your child have a positive test result over the weekend or evening, please email me immediately leaving a contact number headteacher@barham.kent.sch.uk. Once I have information about a positive result, I will contact the Department for Education & Public Health England who will advise me on which groups within school need to self-isolate.

As soon as we have this information, the school will send a parent text and email to the relevant families to alert them that their child will need to self-isolate for 14 days. Home learning will be provided and uploaded to the class pages, as before.

Please also contact the school if your child is self-isolating because someone in your household has tested positive so that we can suggest how best to support your child with learning at home.

This is a difficult time for all of us and everyone at school is grateful for the support you have shown over the last few months. The current restrictions and difficulties will not last forever and we will return to normal before too long. The Barham team are caring, creative and hard-working and all of us at school will continue do our best over the next few months, putting your child's wellbeing at the heart of everything we do.

Yours sincerely

Al Higgins

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