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December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing with another COVID update to give you the current situation in school. The good news is that the number of positive cases is reducing.

We currently have 14 pupils and 3 members of staff self-isolating with COVID. All classes in the school now have at least one positive case apart from Year 4. Year 6 is the worst affected class with 6 pupils still absent with COVID.

As I wrote before, we will stay open for all pupils unless we reach the point that we do not have enough staff in school to teach every class. Should this happen, we will close the minimum number of classes and continue to keep as many classes open as possible. Although we have not reached this stage, we have been extremely stretched as a staff team in the last couple of weeks. Teachers are working flat out teaching in class, providing lessons for Seesaw and ensuring that children are not missing out on our usual seasonal preparations so please be patient if waiting for a response from teachers over work completed on Seesaw.

### **ParentPay**

We are concerned that some parents have not added mobile phone numbers to the ParentPay account. You will not receive texts about emergency closures, club cancellations etc if your phone number is missing. Last year, we had to make an early morning decision to close the school because of adverse weather and not all parents received the text. Please add your number to ensure you receive last-minute notifications.

In case you were not aware, if you have more than one child attending the school, you should register all your children on your ParentPay account as otherwise you will miss out on letters/emails sent to specific class groups.

### **Christmas Events**

#### **Talent Show**

In addition to information already shared, we have decided to postpone next Friday's Talent Show until Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. In the new year, we hope to be able to enjoy whole school events once more so there will be a live audience to appreciate the amazing array of talent amongst our children. Instead, next Friday, children will have a film afternoon in class.



### **Pantomime**

We are still hoping to go to the pantomime next Thursday and will group the children differently so class groups remain together as much as possible. All children will need a packed lunch, water bottle and snack. Masks can be worn if preferred.

If any of you have concerns about your child attending the panto because of vulnerable family members etc, please let the office know by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec and we will be in touch about possible alternative arrangements for the day.

### **Gulbenkian Concert**

The Gulbenkian Concert has been cancelled this year because of the numbers of COVID cases in the local primary schools.

### **Last day of Term – December 17th**

As we cannot hold 'Carols Around the Tree' on the final day of term, we will have class parties instead. Children can wear their own Christmassy outfits. Please note, school ends at 2:15 pm on the last day.

### **Christmas Post Box**

Our Christmas Post box will be put out next week but the last day for posting is Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

I know I always seem to end by thanking you for your support but you truly have been fantastic at following any school changes and keeping us informed. Thank you for your co-operation in all that we have requested. As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me [headteacher@barham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@barham.kent.sch.uk) or the office [office@barham.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@barham.kent.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Al Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Alison Higgins