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November 22nd 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to give you an update on arrangements in school following the rise in COVID cases. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase over the last few days with many asymptomatic cases. I would like to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to stop the spread but the virus is difficult to contain when so many cases are asymptomatic. We are reliant on parents testing when cases in their child's class begin to rise. Thank you to all the parents who have tested their child recently. We really appreciate your support in giving us an accurate picture on the number of affected pupils.

The Department for Education is clear in its instruction that schools should remain open and we would only ever return to remote learning for a class if we lacked the staff to teach. At the moment, we have enough staff to teach all classes.

Return to Bubbles

We are temporarily returning to bubbles until the number of positive cases has reduced. There will be no whole school events such as assemblies and children will not mix between classes for any activities, such as buddy reading. School dinner sittings will be staggered so that we can ensure social distancing between year groups. Children having packed lunches will eat in the classroom and classes will have their own zone at playtime on the playground and field.

Drop off and Pick up times

From Tuesday, November 23rd, Owls can be dropped off at their classroom door from 8:45 am. Key Stage 2 will go through the main gate but it would be helpful if Y3 & Y4 could come promptly at 8:45 and Y5 & Y6 nearer to 8:55 to avoid any crowding at the gate. If you and your child arrives before 8:45, please keep an appropriate distance from other families.

At pick up time, the only change is that Y3 and Y4 will leave at 3:10 pm.

Clubs

As communicated previously, no after-school clubs. However, all children who attend Alan and Jane's breakfast and after-school club will still be able to attend.

Christmas Events

We have reluctantly decided not to have any events with 'live' audiences. Both the KS1 Nativity and the KS2 Christmas Service will be recorded. We will send the link out to you via



Seesaw so the film will not be shared publicly. We also request that parents do not share either film on social media. If you would rather your child did not take part in the film, please contact your child's teacher.

The FOBS school disco will be postponed and Carols around the Tree will not be able to take place on the last day of term.

Remote Learning

Teachers will be setting work on Seesaw in all classes where children have COVID or are self-isolating but children only need to do the work if they are well enough.

I will keep you updated and inform you as soon as there are any changes. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me:

headteacher@barham.kent.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Al Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alison Higgins