

Subject: The new term

Date sent: 3rd January 2021, 9:23am

Great Barford C of E Primary Academy

Dear All,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a very happy new year with the hope that life will gradually begin to get back to something that resembles normal.

However, over the next few weeks and months we will all be required to continue to be responsive and resilient to the changes that are occurring around us. There will be times when we will have sick children, parents and staff, bubble closures and reduced staff. All children, parents and staff will need to adapt to remote teaching and supply teaching at different times. We will, as a school, continue to do everything possible to ensure the continuity of learning and safety for your children. This will include continued clear and regular communication.

As you will know, things have changed somewhat since the end of the autumn term with the more transmissible strain of COVID and the rising rate of infection, along with our current tier 4 designation.

The Government stated on 30th December that it is safe for the primary schools in Bedford Borough to reopen for the spring term. Today we await to hear whether this is still the case. I will contact you later today to confirm. In preparation, our risk assessment has been reviewed and our protocols remain strong and robust.

Over the Christmas break I have been informed of a number of positive test results within our community and have followed these up with individual risk assessments in conjunction with Public Health England and the Department for Education. Any groups impacted by these test results have been informed and the appropriate guidance regarding isolation was given. This is in line with the protocols we have been following with cases we have been alerted to since the beginning of the pandemic. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of you that have been in touch as your diligence helps to keep our families and community safe. Any information shared by you about your family's health, including positive and negative test results, is confidential. Individual details will not be shared with the community but I cannot state strongly enough how important it is that you do share this information with us so we can act on it to protect each other.

All decisions that are made regarding our protocols and COVID-19 risk assessment are in line with the latest government guidance. Here is the link

for the parent and carer guidance updated on 31st December 2020 [What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

There is a COVID-19 flow chart on the home page of our school website for you to follow if you have any concerns about a member of your household's health and also information about what you are required to do. This flow chart also includes details of how to book a test and gain further advice if you require it. Our protocols for entry and exit to the school and also the parent, carer and child of conduct code of conduct is available on the blue button at the bottom of the home page.

Moving forward, in order to protect us all, I ask that if your child is unwell, whether they have COVID-19 symptoms or not, that they remain at home and a test is taken where necessary. If in doubt take a test. Once a negative test result has been returned your child can confidently return to school and once again our families and wider community will be protected. This protocol is the same for our staff. The protocol is there to protect us all.

It is important that if your child is unwell that you email admin@gbpa.org.uk and let us know immediately so we can offer the appropriate support and carry out risk assessments where necessary. By contacting us promptly we will be able to limit transmission by carrying out contact tracing. We will also be able to code the absence appropriately. If a child is unwell, it will be coded as authorised absence. If a child is awaiting a test result for themselves or a household member, it will be coded as authorised. If a child is isolating, either because of their own positive test result or that of a member of their household, it will also be coded as authorised.

Any changes to our reopening on Tuesday will be communicated to you as early as we can via email with a text prompt to ensure that everyone has all the information that they need as quickly as possible. Please be aware that as a school we are relying on advice from the government which we receive at the same time as the wider public.

I will be in touch again later today.

Kind regards,

Sarah Evans

Headteacher