

Great Barford Church of England Primary Academy

'Growing together through learning, friendship and worship'



Thursday 10th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have received a number of queries about our policy on hand sanitiser at this time.

As stated in our Parent, Carer and Child Code of conduct (This document can viewed under the blue button the home page of our website and was shared via email on Friday 4th September) children are not permitted to bring hand sanitiser to school.

This decision was made following rigorous risk assessment and taking into account government guidance about hand washing as well as advice from an independent health and safety consultant.

For clarity please find below our reasoning for this decision:

- Guidance states that washing hands with soap and water is the most effective way to promote hand hygiene and kill the virus if it is present on the hands
- Children have specific times during the school day when they are allocated facilities for soap and water hand washing including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, before and after eating – this is supervised by an adult to ensure that hands are washed properly in accordance with the guidance
- Children wash their hands with soap and water after using the toilet
- Children will be sent to wash their hands using soap and water at additional times during the day if the child requests this or an adult deems it necessary
- All rooms that are being used by pupils and adults in school have alcohol hand gel available for use if soap and water handwashing is not available
- An adult dispenses the alcohol hand gel to a child directly in to their hand -children do not touch the hand gel dispenser themselves
- An adult supervises children using the hand gel ensuring that it is rubbed in properly between fingers etc for the recommended length of time
- The hand gel we use in school contains above 60% alcohol content– this is the effective level to ensure that the virus is killed on the hands

The measures we have put in place for hand hygiene mean that we do not need children to bring their own sanitiser. This ensures that as a school we know exactly what chemicals and alcohol content is being used on site, that children are kept safe and do not have access to unknown substances, children are not sharing bottles of substances that we as a school cannot regulate and parents do not have the additional expense of providing it.

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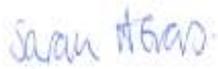
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We have a small number of children whose parents have contacted us and have requested alternative arrangements for medical reasons. We have accommodated this but the gel that has been provided from home is handed in and distributed by staff when appropriate in line with our medication protocols.

It is our duty and wish that we protect all of our community to the best of our ability at this time following guidance and professional advice. I hope that this information helps to make our policy clear.

Kind regards,



Sarah Evans
Headteacher

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