

Parents/Carers

9th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Update letter – COVID-19

As you are aware, the Government announced a National lockdown from Thursday 5th November for 4 weeks however, schools are to remain open during this lockdown.

I fully understand parents/carers concerns over the possibility of pupils contracting the virus whilst at school but we have strict protocols in place to minimise the contact of pupils and staff within the school environment and to date no pupil has received a positive test result. The latest guidance states:

Clinically extremely vulnerable children

More evidence has emerged that shows there is a very low risk of children becoming very unwell from coronavirus (COVID-19), even for children with existing health conditions. Most children originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to follow original shielding advice. Parents should be advised to speak to their child's GP or specialist clinician if they have not already done so, to understand whether their child should still be classed as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Those children whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend education whilst the national restrictions are in place.

Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education.

As a result of this guidance and the fact that there is officially no shielding, we would ask that any parent/carer who believes their child is too vulnerable to be in school seeks confirmation from their GP/Consultant and provides the school with the appropriate medical evidence.

If you are unable to provide medical evidence of your child being too vulnerable to attend school, under the current guidance we will need to record the absence as unauthorised however, we will not pursue the case to a Penalty Notice.

As the guidance clearly states ***children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, but who are not clinically extremely vulnerable themselves, should still attend education*** we will be recording these pupils as unauthorised and will be required to work with the authorities to either encourage attendance or pursue a Penalty Notice.

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I appreciate these are very challenging times for everyone and if you are concerned, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance to discuss the measures in school to keep everyone safe.

Unfortunately, the school has been affected by the virus and our staffing levels have forced us to make the difficult decision to close classes on a rota basis. These decisions are not taken lightly and are reported to the Government daily together with the local authority and KSENT.

Any pupil who is entitled to a Free School Meal under the means tested basis not Universal Free School Meals, Reception to Yr.2 is entitled to a free packed lunch from the school on days that their child's class is closed. If you wish to book a packed lunch, please contact the office, 01795 477788 no later than 9:30am on the day. Pack lunches will be available to collect from Reception from 12:30pm – 1:30pm.

Today it was brought to my attention that long after pupils had been taken into school, parents were in the car park chatting to each other and in one case leaning into another parent's car. I must stress that not only is this against the schools Covid Secure policies but is also in contravention of the Government's lockdown rules. Please can I ask that parents/carers leave the school premises as soon as their child has been collected by Meadowfield staff and whilst waiting, please remain in your vehicle and do not socialise with other parents/carers, as this increases the risks to everyone.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school, office@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Palmer".

Jill Palmer
Principal