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4.01.22

Dear Parents / Carers,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming all Year R – Year 6 children back to school tomorrow, Wednesday 5th January, with timing and routines continuing as for Terms 1 & 2. Our Nursery children will return on Thursday 6th January at their normal times.

I need to inform you of a few IMPORTANT details from the latest *DfE guidance*, however, which will affect testing and Self-Isolation processes.

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

High rates of COVID-19 may cause difficulties with the availability of our staff. As I write this letter, at least two staff members will be absent this week. Our shared priority is to keep Thames View Primary School open so the children continue their face-to-face education. Where workforce issues arise, we may need to use existing teaching, temporary and support staff more flexibly where required. As the children do not currently need to be kept in consistent bubble groups, if the situation during Term 3 becomes critical, we may also need to consider combining classes, relocating children to other classes/year groups and/or closing the Nursery on a temporary basis.

I will of course inform you of any changes as soon as I am able to do so. In the meantime, once again I thank you for your understanding and implore you to continue following the social distancing, face covering and enhanced hand hygiene measures, as well as taking full advantage of the National vaccination programme if you can, to help keep yourself, children, staff and entire Thames View community safe.

Best wishes

DLDaburn

Deanne Daburn
Head of School