

14th October 2020,

Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to update you on the position at Kirk Fenton as you will be aware that positive cases of Covid are being reported locally and there have been partial and whole bubble closures within some local schools. Thankfully, at this point, we have not had a positive Covid test amongst our staff or pupils and we are well prepared in the event that it does happen.

There are things that parents can do to help us keep safe including wearing a face covering on the school site, dropping off and collecting your children and leaving the site as soon as possible and not stopping to talk to teachers or the school office. On that note, the office must remain closed to all visitors and therefore if you need to drop anything off, please ensure it is named and leave it outside the front door. We will ensure it is delivered to the correct child.

I have reiterated again below the main points you need to know should I need to close a bubble or if your child needs to isolate.

What will happen if my child has to self-isolate either individually or through bubble closure?

If your child /family are self-isolating, we will support you by making sure you receive learning support via one of our online platforms.

In the event of a closure of one or more bubbles, we will try to ensure that all children continue to access a full curriculum. We will do this using Google Classroom so that they can access lessons and resources wherever they are. All children from Year 2 upwards are now used to this format, and teachers are continuing to use it for some tasks within school so that children remember how they should log in and find their set work.

If the class bubble closes down and all children have to work remotely, the teacher will:

- Set work in subject folders in the classroom. There will be a daily English, maths and a foundation subject activity which would closely reflect the normal timetable.
- Use links to model and explain lessons where possible, including those produced by the Oak National Academy. Some examples may be recorded by our teachers so that children have things explained in the way they would within school. We will not be delivering 'live' lessons.
- Add additional links to broader curriculum materials and wellbeing resources.

- Send an invite to a weekly Google Hangouts 'check in' so that children can have a short conversation with their teacher and their friends.
- Send a weekly overview of their planning so that you are able to see and track the work that has been set for your child.

Children in Reception and Year 1 will have some suggested activities in line with the areas of learning in their curriculum, and should continue to follow their own areas of interest. They may be given phonic sounds to learn and write, and a number to study and investigate. This will be put on the school website as previously during lockdown.

Any pupil who has difficulties accessing technology should contact their teacher or the school office and we will investigate alternative methods of providing work (such as paper-based worksheets).

Teachers will continue to monitor the level of engagement in tasks by each child in their class every day. New Government legislation gives schools additional powers to ensure the work is completed.

If individual children have to self-isolate but their bubble remains open, teachers will post work in Google Classroom for them to access from home. We will endeavour to keep this as close to the full curriculum offer as possible, although it may not entirely reflect the tasks done in class due to limitations on resources, practical tasks etc.

It is important that if children are absent from school, they continue to read daily. This can be a book from home. Reading is a priority in school, and we would like you to continue making this a priority at home. Please also be mindful that physical education and personal, social and health education also form part of our daily timetable, therefore we would not expect the activities we provide to take up the whole school day. Where appropriate and possible, children should undertake regular physical activity during the day.

Should the entire school close again, we envisage that we will again put provision in place for essential key workers. This will be manned by school staff and appropriate safeguarding procedures will be in place. We will have an application and screening process in place to ensure that places are allocated appropriately. Children will form new bubbles within this provision. When in school, we will ask them to log into their Google Classroom and complete their set tasks. Staff will be on hand to offer support and guidance, but we will not be able to put on 'lessons' due to the breadth of different learning themes and abilities within mixed-aged bubbles. All other children will be expected to complete the tasks in their Google Classroom at home.

Please be reassured that we will do all that we can to remain open safely, and the above measures will only be implemented if we are instructed to do so by Health Authorities.

Best wishes,
Karen Williams
Headteacher