

4th November 2020

Dear Parents,

I wanted to write to update you on the latest position at Kirk Fenton as you will be aware that the country goes into a new lockdown tomorrow. At this point we haven't received any further guidance from the Department for Education although I am aware that it is coming!

First, I know there is some concern about temperatures in school so I wanted to let you know what is happening in the classrooms. Where classrooms have high windows they have to have them slightly opened during lessons to allow air circulation and ventilation. The school heating is on and temperatures in school, although cooler than perhaps they normally would be, are not cold. When children go out to play, we have to open up the windows and doors to flush out the air and allow more vigorous ventilation while the room is empty, closing them again once the children return. The knock on from this is that the classrooms take a little while to heat up again between playtimes. We are more than happy if you wish to dress your child in several layers under their normal school uniform and if they are cold during the day, they have permission to wear their coats etc. If you have a school hoodie or fleece, these are also acceptable.

All internal doors that are not fire doors must also remain open to allow for ventilation and teachers have ensured that children do not sit anywhere where there could be a draft. PE is still a statutory part of the curriculum, needed now more than ever, and has to take place outside as we don't have the capacity to have a bubble in the hall. Therefore it is extra important that your child is well layered on these days with a hoodie and joggers.

Second, we have recently received the first part of our catch-up funding from the Government. In total we will receive an additional £16,000 into our school budget across the year. We have decided to use this money to keep Miss Exton in Year 3 (Jupiter) when Mrs Bembridge returns to school next month. This will remove another change of teacher for that class and will allow Mrs Bembridge, a very experienced teacher, to work across all of our Key Stage Two classes supporting those children identified as having the greatest need to 'catch up'. In turn, this will then allow Mrs Hey to do the same with identified children in EYFS and Key stage one ensuring that we are able to support as many children as we can for the next two terms.

As always, the situation continues to change almost daily and we are doing all we can to ensure the children and staff are safe and supported, but please do ask if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

Karen Williams
Headteacher