Wednesday, 25th November, 2020.

Dear Parents, carers, children and staff,

**Weekly Covid-19 Update Letter.**

I hope this letter finds you all well.

We had to close one more bubble this week (so far) after one person in school tested positive for Covid-19 over the weekend. If your child is self-isolating at home please make sure they do not leave the house, at all, unless it is a medical emergency, e.g. an ambulance is called, and that they complete the work set for them. It is vital they do this because if they don't gaps in their learning will appear.

Again, a very big thank you to parents, carers, grandparents, uncles, cousins etc for wearing a face covering when attending school and when coming onto the school site; we very much appreciate this. Please keep to the one way system around school, even when my staff are not outside to remind you!. Thank you.

I have had a few questions from parents/carers over the last week and a few conversations, so here are a few reminders re Covid and our school.

***Q1. My child was sent home with just a cough, can't you wait and see if they have other symptoms before sending them home as they have missed enough school?***

No. The DFE guidance clearly states that a child presenting with a cough must be sent straight home to be tested and to isolate (and so must their siblings too). I fully agree that the children have missed enough school over the last 8-9 months but we have to put people's safety first and at the moment the instance of Covid in Bradford is still amongst the highest in the country.

***Q2. My child has been sent home with a cold and a cough. They have not got Covid and I am not prepared to get them tested as I know my child well and know they have not got Covid.***

I am sorry but this is just not the case. Viruses are invisible and you cannot be sure your child does or does not have Covid just because 'you know them well'. They must be tested. As we all know by now most young children do not show extreme signs of Covid, but they can and do (and have, in our school) passed it on to adults/staff who in turn may have taken it home and passed it on to their elderly relatives.

Moreover, in our school the ***vast majority*** of positive Covid cases (both adults and children) have begun with symptoms of 'just a cold' (runny nose, blocked nose, headache etc) and NOT the typical, published symptoms. Parents/carers must work with us to keep ALL our school community safe and remember that staff are literally putting their lives or lives of their loved ones on the line to come to work - please do not abuse this or disrespect us by refusing to co-operate with us and by not following the rules. We are doing our very best to protect you and your families and to educate your children in very difficult times - please reciprocate this.

***Q3. Are the Government or you going to issue Free School Meal vouchers over the Christmas Holiday?***

Bradford Council are currently working with central Government on this. As soon as I have an update I will let you all know. In the meantime, if you think your child(ren) may now be entitled to free school meals (even if they already get them in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2) please contact Mrs Khan in our school office who can advise you on this. [ykhan@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk](file:///F%3A%5CCovid19%5CLetters%20Home%5Cykhan%40peelpark.bradford.sch.uk).

***Q4.* I have seen on the news that some schools/acadamies are closing early for Christmas - at least a week earlier than first planned. Are we?**

No. The Government and Bradford Council have made it quite clear that they believe children have missed enough schooling this year and do not support this idea. I fully agree with this. School will close for the two week Christmas holiday on Friday 18th December at the usual (staggered) Friday finishing times, unless you hear any different from me over the next 4 weeks.

**Q5. Have you updated the whole school Covid risk assessment recently and if so are there any big changes?**

Yes. I completed this yesterday and it is now on our website, online:

https://peelpark.eschools.co.uk/website/holiday\_dates/331619

There are no big changes as far as parents/carers are concerned. The only new expectation, by central Government, is that we upload/provide at least three hours worth of school work if your child is self-isolating.

If you have any more questions and/or ideas then please do get in touch with me:

head@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk or 07792 402654 (text is better between 8am and 6pm).

Stay safe and remember - **hands - face - space.**

Assuring you of our best intentions at all times.

Yours Sincerely

Lloyd Mason-Edwards

Mr Lloyd Mason-Edwards

Headteacher