Tuesday, 1st December, 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

**Weekly Covid-19 Update Letter.**

Over the last week we have seen an increase in the number of children and staff having to self-isolate, mainly further down school in Reception. I hope all these children and staff are safe and well.

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. I know a few of you have been a little upset and put out when asked to stick to our one way system around the outside of the building but we are doing our very best to protect you and your families. Thank you.

A small number of you have been in contact with me and asked questions about the current situation in school. Here are the questions and responses.

***Q1. There is even more talk in the press and on social media about the possibility of schools closing a week early for the Christmas break. Is this true? (Teacher)***

No, not as far as I am aware or the directives from the DFE indicate. Our finishing date is still Friday 18th December.

***Q2. How long are we not going to wear school uniform for? (Pupil)***

I review the whole school Covid19 risk assessment every few weeks. We use national guidance and local knowledge of infection rates to guide and highlight risks and implement mitigating (controlling) factors. With this in mind we all know the local rates of infection are still very high so school uniform will be optional until at least the end of February, 2021. I will give all parents/carers at least 4 weeks notice if we are to go back to our uniform policy.

***Q3. Will children in schools be offered the vaccine first so we can all go back to normal in school? (Parent).***

I do not think this will be the case but could stand corrected. I believe the NHS are planning on giving the vaccine to the elderly and the most 'at risk' people first. If the Government want to carry out vaccinations in school you will be notified and we will need your consent to do this - it is your choice.

**Q4. How many hours work should school be providing each day when my child is self-isolating? (Parent)**

The legal minimum we have to offer is 3 hours per day. Please speak to or email your child's class teacher if you have any questions about this.

***Q5. We come out of lockdown and go into Tier 3 this week. What does that mean for us at school? (Pupil)***

Not much really! School will still be open for all pupils and staff and all are expected to attend.

***Q6. I/we are still not back at work and are struggling for food at home. Can you help?***

Yes! Please get in contact with us. Either Mrs Khan (Pastoral Manager) or Mrs Noble (Assistant Headteacher) can help directly or advise you of where to go next. Please do not be ashamed! We are here to help - we are one big family and we do not want to see you or our children go hungry!

***Q7. My child has got symptoms of a cold. Should I keep them off school?***

Yes, DEFINITELY and please have them tested for Covid-19 ASAP. Most of our children and staff who have tested positive have not had the usual or typical symptoms, mainly symptoms of a cold. I am not saying to ignore Government advice but in our experience of Coronavirus, typical cold like symptoms can and have, on many occasions, also signified Covid-19.

***Q8. My child was off self-isolating and the teacher was in contact lots. Is this normal?***

Yes! We still have a duty of care to your child via remote learning. It is the Governments expectation that teachers now contact each child and hear back from them, via an email or Tapestry or SeeSaw etc at least ONCE PER DAY. If your child is not completing the work or contacting/interacting with his/her teacher then we will become worried so please expect a daily phone call.

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