

Tuesday, 20th October, 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Weekly Covid-19 Update Letter.

I hope this letter finds you well.

This week we have had only one bubble (class) sent home because someone in that bubble tested positive for Covid-19. 4 Redwood will have remote learning and teaching provided for them by Ms Nessa up until Friday. If your child is in this class/bubble then please make sure they stay indoors and isolate and complete the work set as it is what we would normally be delivering if they were in school – they are not just ‘holding activities’. If they do not complete the work then they will fall behind in their studies even further.

Again, a big thank you to all parents/carers who are attending school wearing a facemask or covering. Please do not be offended if you are approached by a member of my team and asked to wear one or handed a disposable one – we are here to help protect your children and families and you! If you are exempt from wearing one then please just let the member of staff know this.

A few of you have been in contact with me asking some more questions about the current situation in school – this is good!. Here are the questions and responses. And remember, no question is a silly question!

Q1. One of my children has been sent home because their bubble has closed down due to a positive test in it. What about my other children (their brothers and sisters)? What should I do with them?

The Government guidance states that siblings of children who are sent home to isolate for 14 days should **still attend school** if they do not display any symptoms of Covid-19 themselves. I understand that some of you may be single parents/carers and/or may not have anyone to look after your child who is isolating as you do the school run to drop off and pick up your children from school. This is not an easy situation and I empathise with parents/carers who are in this position. If this is you then do please call school and we can try to work out a solution – we are here to help.

Q2. How do I go about getting the school work for my child to complete when he/she is sent home to isolate?

Work is uploaded to the school website by the class teacher and can be found on the link below:

https://peelpark.eschools.co.uk/website/home_learning_tasks/462621

If you do not yet have access to a device for your child to complete the work on then please let either the main school office or your child's Class Teacher know by calling us: 01274 639377 and we can post out, on paper, your child's set learning for that week.

Peel Park Primary School and Nursery
 Peel Park Drive, Bradford, BD2 4PR
Tel: 01274 639377 **Fax:** 01274 648412
Email: office@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Lloyd C. Mason-Edwards BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQH.

www.peelpark.eschools.co.uk



Q3. My child has completed all the work set by the Class Teacher. What more can they do to help with their learning?

There are also other online resources that the children can be learning from, a small list that I am aware follows:

Sumdog
 Seesaw
 Epic
 Read Theory

Mrs Varley has been working tirelessly over the last few weeks to try and obtain free internet enabled devices for the vast majority of our children who do not yet have any access to online learning and/or share just one device between many members of their household and who are sent home if their bubble closes. A big thank you to Mrs Varley for this! We await their arrival from the Government...

Q4. When are this year's Parent/Carer Consultation Meetings?

They will take place as follows, via telephone:

09.11.20	Rec Oak	8.45 - 11.30
	1 Maple	8.45 - 11.30
	1 Hazel	12.30 - 3.00
10.11.20	Nursery AM	8.45 - 11.30
	1 Willow	8.45 - 11.30
	Nursery PM	12.30 - 3.00
	2 Poplar	12.30 - 3.00
11.11.20	Rec Pine	8.45 - 11.30
	Rec Beech	12.30 - 3.00
	2 Olive	12.30 - 3.00
12.11.20	2 Palm	12.30 - 3.00

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Upper school week beginning 16.11.20

16.11.20	3 Birch	8.45 - 11.30
	6 Holly	8.45 - 11.30
	5 Cedar	12.30 - 3.00
	5 Dragon	12.30 - 3.00
17.11.20	4 Elm	8.45 - 11.30
	6 Banyan	8.45 - 11.30
	3 Chestnut	12.30 - 3.00
	3 Rowan	12.30 - 3.00
18.11.20	5 Larch	8.45 - 11.30
	4 Ash	12.30 - 3.00
19.11.20	6 Sycamore	8.45 - 11.30
	4 Redwood	12.30 - 3.00

Mr Worger, our PA, will be in touch soon, with a letter to explain how to book a telephone slot to meet with your child's Class Teacher. As many of you know, our teachers are a great team so if the above date and time do not suit you then please email or call them and they will try to be as flexible as possible – within reason! 😊

Q5. What will happen at school if Bradford and/or West Yorkshire go into a Tier 3 category.

It is my understanding that schools, especially primary schools, will stay open through a Tier 3 lockdown situation. I am sure you all agree that your wonderful children have missed enough direct teaching and learning over the last 8 months and it is time for them to make accelerated progress so that they have everything they need to succeed now and in the future.

Q6. I am still very concerned about sending my child to school and have not sent them back yet. Am I OK to do this?

The legal and 'official' line here is a definite **no**. The Government states that all children should be back in school. However, as a unique school who cares about all its families, we understand that each and every family faces its own issues and problems it has to manage and deal with. I am only aware of a very small number of families who have not yet sent their child(ren) back to school. I urge these parents/carers to get in contact with me to discuss their issues and concerns and we can work together to come up with a workable solution for all concerned. head@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk or 07792 402654. 😊

Q7. 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!

Q8. Will school be closing for 2 weeks for the October half-term break/holiday?

No. School will close at the new, early closing times this Friday 23rd October and re-open on Monday 2nd November at the usual, staggered starting times. If we hear any different from the Government then we will let you know via text but I am fairly confident that this will not happen.

Q9. My child has got symptoms of a cold. Should I keep them off school?

Yes, 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. We believe this is one reason why it went through our school a few weeks ago. I am not saying to ignore Government advice but in our experience of Coronavirus, typical cold like symptoms can also signify Covid-19.

Q10. We haven't seen much of you outside over the last few weeks Mr Mason-Edwards. Where have you been?

After having recovered from Covid-19 it has left me with a mild cough which is aggravated if I go in the cold air. The last thing I want to do, as Headteacher, is to be standing outside coughing in front of you all at the beginning or end of the school day! This wouldn't exactly instill confidence in sending your children to school – I'm sure! I am now in a 'bubble' on my own and will be back outside after the half-term holiday.

Q11. The rules and laws are confusing. Can you explain them?

A reminder of what we should and shouldn't do (the law) re Covid-19:

- If someone in your household is ill - all of you must stay at home for 14 days (do not leave the house) and get a test for the ill person.
- If you have been in close contact with the ill person and they test positive you must self-isolate for 14 days. This means do not leave the house.
- If a person has been positive - the person with the positive test can return to school (if well) after 10 days from the start of the illness. However, the whole household must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from the start of the illness.

Finally. This has been a very, very unusual and long term (8 weeks) for my staff. The stress of the pandemic and people's worries and concerns surrounding it have been directed at school, at some point, over the last 8 weeks. Some of them/us have been sworn at, threatened, called names and had personal insults thrown at us by parents/carers who are as frustrated as we are about the new 'normal'.

I thank my great staff team for remaining positive and professional throughout the term and ask the very small minority of parents/carers who choose to behave in such a manner to think about their actions and behaviours very carefully before they act on them. Be reasonable, be polite and we will listen and engage with you even more than if you choose to shout and swear like a child. There is no place for this at our school. Thank you.

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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

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