

Wednesday, 4th November, 2020.

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Weekly Covid-19 Update Letter.

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Welcome back to all our Peel Park family; I really do hope you managed to have some quality time with your wonderful children over the last week or so. The good news is that all the classes/bubbles came back on Monday and our attendance continues to rise – well done and thank you to all those pupils and mums and dads who are making sure their children come to school every day.

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! A few 'naughty' adults like to try and sneak through in the wrong direction... 😊

A few of you have been in contact with me and asked questions about the current Covid-19 situation in school. Here are the questions and my responses.

Q1. We go into another national lockdown on Thursday (tomorrow)? What will happen at school? Will you be closing?

No, school will not be closing. At the moment the Government and Department for Education (DFE) have made it quite clear that all schools must stay fully open to all pupils during the coming, four week lockdown.

Q2. I don't want to send my child to school during the new, four week, national lockdown because we have elderly and frail relatives living with us who are clinically vulnerable? What should I do?

Every household and family live in different circumstances – we understand this. If you have concerns or worries about sending your child(ren) to school then please contact us and speak to us about your individual circumstances as treating everybody the same doesn't necessarily equate to fairness. In other words, equity doesn't always lead to equality. We are here to help.

Q3. I have a child in Year 3. You have changed the routine for them coming into school and going home at the end of the day. Why?

Our Y3 children were lining up outside at the start and end of each day in order to ease congestion inside the building and at the school doors. However, as the weather is getting colder (and wetter!) a few staff and parents commented on this to me so we have allocated each Y3 class a new, 'going home' door which are clearly marked with a sign for each class. All Y3 children can enter the building via the South, glass stairwell, direct from the playground. I hope this helps you if you are the parent/carer of a Y3 pupil. Please help us by being prompt when dropping off and collecting your child each school day. Thank you.

Q4. Myself (and my partner) have been furloughed again or lost our job and are struggling with money for food at home. Can you help?

Of course we can! Please ring school and ask to speak with Mrs Noble or email her, on: knoble@peelpark.bradford.sch.uk

We are here to help and do not want any of our children or their families to go hungry because of the current situation.

Q5. I've heard that you are going to get lots of free internet devices, such as iPads, to give out to lots of your pupils to help with home learning. Is this correct?

No! We were initially notified that we would receive 68 free devices (we have 608 pupils at our school) but at 17.50 on the day we broke up for half-term we got an email from the DFE saying that this had been reduced to 14!! You can imagine my reaction...it wasn't nice. I felt very sad and upset for our pupils and the timing of the email was appalling.

However, our Governors are looking into this and what we can do to help. Watch this space...

Q6. My child is complaining that they are cold in class. Why is this?

The latest research suggests that one of the biggest and most effective ways of not catching an airborne virus is to keep enclosed spaces, such as classrooms, well ventilated. We are trying to keep the windows open as much as possible to aid this. Please send your child with layers (vest, t-shirt, jumper, coat etc) if you can. Again, if you are struggling to afford such items then please contact Mrs Noble here at school and we'll see what we can do to help.

Q7. What are you doing about Christmas celebrations and performances this year?

My team and I are currently looking into this one! If you have any ideas I would be very pleased to hear them, bearing in mind that we can't sing, mix bubbles (classes) or have parents/carers in the building...yet!

Q8. The main school pedestrian gate was not open on Monday morning and we had to wait around/walk on the road to get into school. Why?

My sincere apologies for this. Both our Site Leader (Mr Allan) and our Caretaker (Mr Allan Jnr) are currently self-isolating at home. They hope to be back next week.

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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

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

Incorporating the
BD3 Forest School

