



Friday, 13th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I trust that you are all keeping safe and well during this second lockdown. I am sure that we are all hoping that it will end on December 2nd. Since the lockdown began this has, as you will appreciate raised anxiety amongst staff, parents and carers as well as some of our pupils. We are endeavouring to keep everyone, pupils, staff, and all stakeholders associated with the school community as safe and well as possible, including doing all that we can for their health and wellbeing. This is why we have strict procedures within school which we will continue to follow and expect parents / carers to adhere to for the foreseeable future.

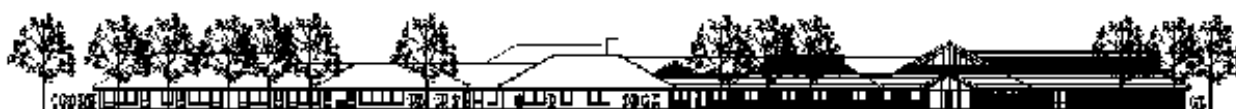
However, with this in mind, I felt it important to give you another update regarding the situation within school relating to COVID 19.

- We have had several members of staff who have once again, been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable so have been issued with shielding letters from the NHS or their GP. They are unable to come to work until December 3rd but are working remotely from home. This significantly reduces the numbers of staff in school in bubbles.
- We have staff absent due to needing to self-isolate and several others who are awaiting test results and others who will be tested today.
- We have several staff members who are absent from school due to long term / short term ill health and those who are having to remain at home due procedures within their children's schools or due to their children needing to self-isolate.
- This week we have had no pupils who have tested positive, which is good news indeed.

Unrelated to COVID 19, this week we have many pupils and staff absent from school due to sickness and diarrhoea. Please could I remind you that if we need to send your son / daughter home due to this they are to remain at home for 48 hours after their last bout of illness.

Due to this it is important that you are aware that, although we have managed to continue to keep school open, with the exception of one class this may well change as from next week, due to the number of staff we have absent.

Instead of fully closing a class / bubble, it is our intention to reduce pupil numbers in classes on a rotational basis. If this is the case your son / daughter will not be able to attend school on specific days, which we are hoping will be no more than two during one week. This, we hope, will enable us to remain open and strive to ensure we continue to provide the high standard of education and care for



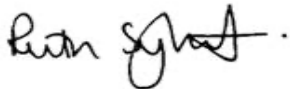
which we are renowned. This is not an easy decision to have to make, but as you will totally understand without a safe ratio of staff to pupils this heightens the risk factors within school. If your son or daughter is required to remain at home it is our intention to let you know as soon as possible, but in a real emergency of significant limited staff numbers within a class group, it may well be on the morning this is to occur. Where possible we will notify you the day before as we are reviewing the situation on a daily basis.

We are trying our utmost to support pupils and staff during this challenging time, as well as keeping staff to their own bubble, unless, due to the nature of their role in school, they are required to do so. For this instance, we have guidelines to which staff are adhering.

I know this may be hard for a number of you but the Strategic Leadership Team of the school, which includes the Governing Body, as well as all the staff appreciate your support in this matter. Safety, the health and well-being of everyone in our very special Redway Community is paramount to us at all times, but especially so during this pandemic.

Please remember that there are still suggestions for home learning activities on our school website and should you wish for further activity ideas and resources to be sent home please so let your child's class teacher know via the home / school books.

Thank you for your continued support for all that we are doing, it is very much appreciated.



Ruth Sylvester
Headteacher



Mike Rowlands
Chair of Governors