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BEAVER ROAD M20

Beaver Road Primary School

Beaver Road

Didsbury

Manchester

M20 6SX

Wednesday 1st December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Despite all of our best and successful efforts to minimise the spread of Covid-19 across our school community since the pandemic began in Feb/March 2020, unfortunately we are currently suffering from our first Covid-19 outbreak across our Reception team and classes. This has affected the majority of our Reception Staff Team and approximately 25% of Reception children who are currently absent from school. We do also have a few positive Covid-19 cases in other year groups and this letter is to inform you of measures now in place, which will affect our whole school community.

Our local Public Health Protection Team, along with our Local Authority Education Lead, have met and communicated closely with us to support the additional measures we must now put in place to minimise any further spread of the virus and keep our community as safe as possible. These measures are also in line with The Greater Manchester Public Health and the DFE guidance. We are doing our utmost to keep all of our provision in school available for children (including Reception children). In order to do so, we would like to make you aware of the following precautions we are taking in school and advice we are recommending to you. These measures will be in place until at least the end of this term.

- Firstly, we would like to remind you that any child or family member presenting with the most common symptoms of Covid-19 (new continuous cough and/or; high temperature and/or; a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell) must isolate and should arrange to take a PCR test. If you choose for your child not to take a PCR test, your child will be required to isolate for 10 days.
- As we have an outbreak at our school, if you or your child have wider symptoms of the virus, you can register for a PCR test online at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus and tick the box that says your local authority asked you to take a test. For more information about the wider symptoms and booking a test, please see the Covid-safe page on our school website <https://www.beaverroad.org.uk/page/covid-safe/66756>
- There are additional measures in place that will only affect the Reception cohort at this time and Reception Class parents and carers have been informed of these in a separate communication. This includes temporarily isolating this cohort in school as much as reasonably possible. However, as a direct impact of the outbreak, we hope you understand that it is no longer deemed safe to hold any events in school for parents and carers across the whole school until January 2022. As a result, we have no option but to cancel both the Reception and Nursery Christmas performances and postpone the coffee mornings/workshops for parents/carers and the PTA Movie Nights planned for this month. We understand how disappointed you will be feeling, as we are too.



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However, the children's Christmas performances will be recorded and circulated to parents and carers in the same way as we did last year, and the coffee mornings/workshops and PTA Movie Nights will be rearranged for next term.

- There are other measures in place for our whole staff team, including the wearing of face coverings in all communal areas and social distancing wherever possible. If you enter the school building at any time, including the main offices at each school site, it is essential that you wear a face covering and remain socially distanced from our staff members at all times.

Please be aware that if we are not successful in reducing the rate of infection through these measures, we may have to consider returning to working within 'bubbles', including staggered start and finish times and lunchtimes within classrooms. In the worst-case scenario, if we do not have enough staff to safely keep our affected year group provision open, we may have to return to remote education at home for the children in affected year groups. None of us wants this to happen, so please work positively together with us to follow these measures and advice and keep rates of infection within our school community as low as possible.

I wish a speedy recovery to all our children, families and staff members who are currently unwell. There is remote education available for all of our children who are isolating at home as a result of Covid-19 and are well enough to complete it. If you are not receiving this and would like it, please contact the school office.

Take care and please let us know if you have any further queries or questions.

Best wishes,



Mrs Liz Hardy
Executive Headteacher



Article 3 (Best interests of the child) *When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed.*