



Dear Parents/carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both yourselves and the children for the way in which they have embraced the changes that have had to be implemented at the school since our return. As I stated in letters throughout lockdown it is a less than ideal situation for any of us and an almost impossible task to make sure that we are covering all eventualities and meeting the demands of all in our community. As a academy we are constantly reviewing our protocols in line with ever changing guidance and information from the Government, the Local Authority and Public Health England. I am aware that these guidelines and the implementation of them does not make life particularly easy for any of us but my main priority, as the Headteacher of the academy, is to reduce the risk of arising infection rates and to ensure that we have enough human resources to keep the academy working effectively. As I stated earlier the pupils have been fantastic and are a credit to all of you in the way they have adapted at New Line Learning Academy. I would like to outline some clear points as we continue through the term to keep you all fully updated with the current situation.

SCHOOL PROTOCOLS:

All schools are now having to liaise or follow protocols set out by a range of organisations, including the DFE, Local Authority, Health & Safety Executive, Ofsted and Public Health England. There are many new things to learn, adhere to and obviously the situation in regard to Covid is changing on an almost daily basis. At present infection rates in Kent and in the local area appear to be very low but we have a very strict protocol which we follow in regard to any infection or testing. I would like to reiterate again that Public Health England are emphasising the following 3 symptoms in regard to Covid 19 case definition:

- A high temperature
- A new continuous cough
- A loss of or change to your sense of taste or smell.

If these are experienced by any child then they should not be sent to school and a test should be requested through the following website:

<https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name>

Please inform us if this is the case and particularly if test results come back positive because this has huge implications for the school and the need for Public Health England intervention. Please do not send siblings in if one of your children has Covid 19 symptoms. All can return if test results are negative.

EVENTS:

We have obviously taken the decision that in the majority of occasions whole school events will not be taking place in term 1 and we will be looking at alternative arrangements for the organisation of parent's consultation evenings, information evenings and the open events later this month, as these normally attract huge numbers of people. Once again none of this is ideal but we will be in touch in the near future to keep you apprised of the decisions we will be making in regard to these activities. As I have stated earlier the situation continues to change daily and so obviously we are continually reviewing every situation and every event.

ADMISSIONS 2021:

We will be doing a virtual open evening. In regard to Year 7 places for next year we will be delivering an application pack to all Primary Schools by the end of this month, with as much information as we can possibly provide. I cannot emphasise enough the need for people to be aware that our own application form needs to be completed alongside the Common Application Form for the Local Authority.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES:

You will be aware that the systems on arrival and departure are becoming more efficient in regard to time and a large number of you have commended us on how quickly we are now able to get children in and out of school. We are continually reviewing these protocols but at present it is clear that there will be no changes to the current arrangements as outlined by the Government in regard to staggered starts and finish times.



YEAR 7:

I would like to make a special mention for our new pupils in Year 7 who have generally had a fantastic start to the year and have also embraced the procedures at New Line. I would also like to thank the parents for their support in what have been very challenging times.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

The current situation continues to be a very difficult time for all in our school community and we acknowledge that we are never going to get everything right. We are extremely lucky to have such a supportive staff who on a daily basis are showing their commitment to our children and who are passionate about doing what they can to provide the best education in these difficult times. I would like to thank the large number of you who have sent such positive comments about our school and our staff and I cannot emphasise enough the huge positive impact this has on groups of people who are having to work on a daily basis outside of their comfort zone. You have incredible children and as parents you should be extremely proud of the way that they have conducted themselves over the last few days and we will continue to do our best as a school to make life as bearable as possible, despite the many challenges.

Paul Murphy

Headteacher