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COVID- 19 Lockdown 2.0 An update for parents: 9th November 2020

Hello again. Now we are once again in a lockdown scenario, I thought it timely that I updated you and answered some frequently asked questions.

School is open and we continue our events for November. We want to bring some normality of routine and expectation in a world which seems so unpredictable at the moment so whilst ensuring our risk mitigation measures are as rigorous as ever, we are continuing to think about Remembrance Day, Children in Need, Road Safety and Anti Bullying as we had planned for November. Have you seen our work from Rain before Rainbows? #Our Rainbow Children.

We are also passionate about creating some much needed Christmas Magic for the children at Central despite Covid restrictions so please watch this space and be patient . . .

Do my children need to come to school during the lockdown period?

Yes, this is one of the big differences to the previous lockdown. Unless your child is symptomatic or has to self-isolate after advice given, they should attend school. Schools have worked hard to ensure that they are as safe as they can possibly be and the risk assessments are continually updated as the situation changes. In terms of school attendance, expectations remain the same and as long as we have enough staff who are well enough to teach, we will fully open to children, unless we have to close a bubble due to positive case.

How can we stay as safe as possible during the pandemic?

Everyone in our entire community needs to work together and follow all the government guidance. The strategy of **Hands, Face, Space** is key to keeping our school open and keeping us all as safe as possible.

Hands:

- Please ensure that you are washing your hands frequently and using hand sanitiser and that this is promoted within your family in your home and as you go out into the community. Should you visit our setting, you will be asked to wash your hands on arrival.
- Staff will not shake your hand and will stand back when talking to you. This is purely due to the guidelines they are following.

Face:

- A few weeks ago, we requested that you wear a face covering on the school site.
Please now ensure that you are wearing a mask on site.
- All staff greeting you at entrances to school will be wearing a face covering too. You may see staff wearing face coverings around communal areas in school.

Space:

- We all need to respect each other's personal space and all conversations need to be held at a 2m distance between us (or as close to this as possible).
- Parents' meetings will be arranged via phone or Zoom where possible. We are generally not accepting parent visitors into school during the normal school day.
- Should you require a confidential conversation, please contact the office and we will arrange a mutually convenient phone call or Zoom call.
- The office remains closed for all non-urgent enquiries. The school office can be contacted via phone, email or dojo.

Ventilation and Warmer clothes!

We are working to a rigorous risk assessment which is frequently updated. One measure we take is to ventilate all our work spaces.

Current research details that coronavirus is spread through the air, especially in indoor spaces. Scientists openly acknowledge the role played by the transmission of aerosols – tiny contagious particles exhaled by the infected person that remain suspended in the air of an indoor environment. Advice is to keep all rooms as well ventilated as possible whilst ensuring that everyone is warm enough. We ventilate appropriately through the day and when children are out of classrooms, we allow for air to be circulated. As the weather gets colder, we are aware that it would be sensible for children to wear warmer, layered clothing to school.

Please ensure that all children have their school uniform top layer of jumper, fleece, cardigan with them at all times. Body warmers, gilets or skins will be acceptable in class in dark colours as a helpful further layer. As always, we ask that all clothing is clearly labelled.

How can I find out the most up to date information?

Class Dojo, Email and www.wathcentral.co.uk

Please take advice from official school sources only – these are Class Dojo, email and our website for this type of information. We do not have an official school Facebook site and as such cannot be held responsible for any information shared on our behalf.

Please ensure you are signed up for Class Dojo and are able to receive the updates we send via School and Class Stories.

Please ensure that the school office has **three up to date contact numbers and an email address.**

Parents' Meetings

Parents Consultation Meetings had been allocated specific times next week but due to developments since then, including a Bubble closure and several staff self-isolating, we will now need to work within a three week window for these conversations. Your child's teacher will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time. This can be either via phone or Zoom.

All other parents' meetings will take place either by phone or Zoom where we can. We have put on hold face to face meetings from now on where possible.

What do I do if a child or family member becomes symptomatic?

- Should you or your children become symptomatic, stay at home, self isolate and book a test immediately.
- Inform school immediately (before social media please) and take advice. Consider carefully what needs to be shared on Facebook and other social media platforms as this can spread anxiety.
- Once the test result is returned, notify school **immediately and we will take appropriate action from there.**

What will we do if we have a positive confirmed case of Covid-19 in school?

This varies depending on the individual case but we follow the government and Trust procedures rigorously.

If a positive case has been identified in your child's bubble, and immediate action needs to be taken, the first contact from school will be a text. This will be followed by a Dojo post and letter attachment. This will also be sent to you via email.

If a positive case has been identified in your child's bubble, but no immediate action needs to be taken, you will be informed via Dojo.

If a positive case has been identified within the wider school community but no immediate action needs to be take, you will be informed by Dojo.

How we ensure consistency during staff self-isolation?

If a teacher has to self-isolate but isn't symptomatic, they will still be planning, teaching and assessing from home. There will be a teacher or HLTA / cover supervisor in class but the class teacher will teach from home via Zoom for some of each teaching day. The rest of the teaching will occur face to face in school by the staff member in the class.

Thank you. Keep your eyes on Dojo and the website for updates and good news.