

Barley Lane School

Friendship, Optimism, Hardwork

28.02.22

Dear parents and carers,

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic we all want to thank you for your continued support throughout this challenging period although we must remain vigilant even now as I think I speak for all schools when I say that it is disappointing that the government has left schools to make their own decisions in the coming weeks over covid related matters.

Despite this, the guidance does say “pupils with Covid should not attend education settings “while they are infectious”. They should return only after two negative lateral flow tests from the fifth day of symptoms, and only if they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

As a small school working on a skeleton staff, as you know, we stayed open throughout the pandemic and whether the children were offered a place in school or offered online learning, we were able to connect and support each other regardless and this is now paying dividends in school, despite significant levels of isolation.

It would have been better if government had provided clear and unambiguous guidance for schools and parents when the legal requirement to self-isolate with Covid was scrapped last week. However, the PM also strongly advised isolation until at least the 1st of April for those with Covid symptoms and as a small school that could be greatly impacted, that is the position that we support.

It will be very important therefore, to remain in dialogue with you as we have, not only over time but certainly in the last couple of years, to plan the most productive way forward.

We have reviewed our online offer and so there should be an improvement in this over the last few weeks and using Dojo will be key to this with work already provided.

I think we would all agree in the interim that children with symptoms should remain at home and we all encourage you to keep the testing regime up that you have so brilliantly and this has protected the community and its vulnerable staff. Thank you

Our request is rooted in the risks of more disruption if more positive pupils came into classrooms. There is always the risk that the lack of guidance opens the door for disagreement with parents who may interpret symptoms that may or may not be coronavirus differently from their child’s teachers

Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up. Jesse Jackson

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and school. We hope to work with you supportively on this and only those who are confirmed cases should remain at home.

The best way forward is to keep the dialogue going until Easter, which is just 5 more weeks away, continue to keep the community safe and return to something consistently normal at the beginning of the summer term.

As always, we are always available to talk and discuss and to provide greater clarity – a call to your tutor or the senior leadership team is always welcome.

Many thanks and we look forward to the children's' safe and happy return following the half term break

All the best

The team at Barley Lane School