



Weekly Newsletter: COVID again - sorry! 2nd July 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is getting increasingly difficult to remember a world where every news story and action isn't dominated by Covid 19.

We all want to begin to think about something else—and hopefully—we will soon be able to.

Until that time it is vital we do what we can to protect the NHS, school and each other. We seem to have survived another week without closing a bubble so thank you for the part you have played in this.



To do our best to ensure this continues I please ask that you:

- 1) Wear a face mask when around school
- 2) Maintain social distancing – no one wants to isolate because they have been stood too close to another parent.
- 3) Keep children who are unwell off school—call school to seek advice if you are unsure.
- 4) Phone us to tell us why your child is off. We spend about an hour a day chasing up absences.
- 5) Report any Covid tests to school and follow the advice given

At Bredbury St Mark's we have done fantastically well in minimising the closure of bubbles since we came back in March (in fact since the pandemic began). This has only been possible because we have all worked together.

We are trying desperately to keep school open and maintain the bubbles. Thanks to all parents who have taken their children for PCR tests when requested. Please remember the advice we have been given is if your child is unwell in any way please take them for a PCR and await the results before sending them in. The symptoms now seem much wider. We really appreciate that it is not nice and is inconvenient but we are all trying hard to minimise the impact of this virus.

Lateral Flow tests

If your child has COVID symptoms then the advice is to book a PCR test immediately. The lateral flow tests are aimed at identifying those children and adults who may have the virus but do **not** have symptoms. This is why a PCR must be taken after a positive lateral flow test. They are significantly more accurate.

If your child has COVID symptoms, a negative lateral flow test does not necessarily mean they do not have the virus.

Why do we need a PCR?

A PCR test does several things:

- 1) It confirms—beyond all reasonable doubt—that the person with a positive flow test has Covid.
- 2) A PCR test can determine the variant (type) of C19 an individual has and can support PHE (Public Health England) in deciding the best course of action

We know getting a PCR is impossible for some families and these families can carry out a postal test.

In all instance please follow NHS/PHE guidelines

Autumn

This week you will have heard a lot about Autumn and closure of bubbles—or not. At present, we have had no guidance—once we do, we will ensure this is communicated promptly.

Holidays

As you are aware holidays are not permitted in term time and will not be authorised—unless meeting strict criteria about exceptional circumstances. Any family taking children out of school will not have work set by the school and we expect the family to follow government guidelines on their return.

Covid—last bit!

We know what we have been asking parents/families to undertake is not easy. We know the advice from government changes and is not always easy to understand.

However, please remember, that staff are not medical experts and we are merely following the advice we have been given to help protect your children and families. Mrs Halfpenny in the office and the pastoral staff (Mrs Alexander and Mrs Quinn) have done an excellent job.

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support as we work together to keep your children safe.

Stay safe and have a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes.

E. Harding
Mrs Harding
Headteacher

Weekly Worship Focus

Our value for this half term is RESPECT.

In Monday's worship this week we thought about treating others the way we want to be treated ourselves. We looked at the half-ton mosaic that hangs in the United Nations headquarters in New York. It depicts people of different nationalities standing together with the words "Do unto others as you would have them." These words are called The Golden Rule. We talked through scenarios and decided how we would respond if we lived by the Golden Rule.

Children's
Worship

Birthdays

Birthdays this week

We have no birthday this coming week!

I hope I haven't missed anyone!



Head's weekly awards

This week's awards go to:

- Zunaira in Year 1 for always having such an attitude to her learning.
- Mia in Year 4 for being a team player and taking on board other people's views.



Weekly attendance

Year Group	Weekly %
Early Years	92.6%
Year 1	91%
Year 2	96.7%
Year 3	88.8%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	93.3%
Whole school	93.5%



Well done Year 2 and Year 4 again!

Important Dates

- ✓ Thursday 8th July: Children to have a story with their new class teacher
- ✓ Wednesday 14th July: Children spend morning in new class
- ✓ WB: 19th July – Sport's week
- ✓ Friday 23rd July – Reports sent home
- ✓ Wednesday 28th July: School closes for Summer holidays
- ✓ Thursday 2nd September: School opens for Autumn term



The 2021/22 holiday dates are now on the school website in the PARENTS section.