

10 February 2021

Dear Parents

I am writing to you to round up the last six weeks of keyworker provision that your children have accessed at Spring Vale Primary School.

Every child that has attended keyworkers has behaved impeccably and they have all made huge progress academically and socially. At the start of this year, about 20 children were accessing school on a daily basis. This has steadily grown to a point where we can now have more than 50 children in attendance. Many more of our younger children attend which is what we expect and is the picture nationally. This is why in week 3 of keyworker provision we split the lower school group into two groups. Every day your children have attended they have accessed a PE lesson led by our professional coaches, completed their daily work packs which have been set by their teachers, watched videos their teachers have uploaded or accessed live lessons. They have had the opportunity to make new friends, to meet new teachers and to use different classrooms around our school. It has been a pleasure to have them.

February Half Term

The Government have announced that all schools, Primary, Secondary, Special, will close this Friday, 19th February for half term. We will reopen our keyworker provision on Monday 22nd February following the same procedures as this half term. As I am writing this letter to you this provision will be for at least two more weeks until 8th March. We are expecting an announcement about schools and moving forwards on 22nd February. I will be watching this with baited breath. As it stands I have no idea about the future reopening of schools. My commitment to you is that, if schools remain closed for the vast majority of pupils, we will continue to offer you keyworker provision in order that you can continue your vital roles in the running and caring for our country.

Staff Lateral Flow Testing

From 25th January all school staff are undertaking two covid19 tests at home each week (lateral flow tests). These tests are designed to ensure that members of staff who are asymptomatic do not unintentionally spread covid19. If a member of staff tests positive, then we call Public Health who complete a dynamic risk assessment with us. They then give us next steps for the both the member of staff and the parents whose children may have come into direct contact. We rely on this information being timely and accurate in order to inform our responses to you. This week has proved to be very difficult, particularly for our Nursery and Reception parents due to a member of staff testing positive on Sunday. We currently have two teachers isolating after positive results, which is the most we have ever had at any one point.

At this point can I urge all parents, and indeed I have thought about this myself, to consider what alternative arrangements they would put into place if their child's bubble was to close at short notice. We hope that this will not happen and we have put in huge measures around social distancing, hand washing and hygiene etc to limit this. However, this week has taught me that we need to be flexible in our approach to isolating children and staff.

Your children have brought joy and noise to an empty building. We are so happy that they are able to attend and make academic progress. They have done science experiments, baked cakes, learnt about different parts of the world, polished off school dinners, had a dodgeball tournament, told me jokes and created masterpieces in art lessons! This does not replace school and we hope soon that they can be together again with their classmates.

Stay safe



Mr C Blunt
Headteacher



Miss K Manning
Acting Deputy Headteacher