



Willerby Carr Lane Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Update on School Operations

As you may know, we currently have three year groups self-isolating following positive cases: Years 1, 2 and 6. The Year 1 bubble is due back on Monday. The Year 2 bubble has now gone into self-isolation twice. We have two other classes in school being covered with supply teachers. We also have approximately 10 children on any given day, from other year groups, self-isolating because of symptoms while they await test results. Talking to other Headteachers, there are many schools being similarly affected - or even worse.

School operations are becoming severely strained with staff having to self-isolate. When bubbles close, the staff in that year group switch to working from home. But quite apart from this, we have also got many staff self-isolating because of 'track and trace' or because their own children have been sent home. Today, I have 20 staff self-isolating. We are working from day to day to maintain essential operations. Unfortunately, this has resulted in having to suspend the provision of hot meals; we simply do not have enough staff to run them. As soon as it is possible, we will restart them.

The Google Classrooms are working very well and now incorporate daily face-to-face online contact sessions, for isolating bubbles, as well as teacher voiced-over Powerpoint lessons. I have to say a massive thank you to the staff for all the extra efforts required to provide these resources as well as the telephone calls to support families. Nonetheless, we realise that children being educated at home causes extra stresses for families who may have to re-arrange work and juggle their own demands whilst supporting their children.

Hopefully, as lockdown continues, the number of positive cases in the community will start to drop. We all have our part to play. We all have a responsibility to our community to follow the rules and not mix in ways that are not allowed. I know that some rules may seem contradictory - for me, for example, I can see 420 children and 80 adults every day but I can't see my own parents at all. But, it is all about reducing risk wherever possible. If you are not sure of what you are allowed to do during lockdown or when self-isolating, please check the government websites.

If you are concerned your child may have symptoms, or you are living with someone who has symptoms, or awaiting a test result, you must follow the latest NHS guidance and, if advised to self-isolate at home, you must follow the guidance from Public Health England. Sending a child in to school when they should be self-isolating puts everyone at risk and will increase the likelihood of year groups being sent home for 2 weeks. If you are in any doubt what to do, please call Mrs Debbie Brown, School Business Manager.

In terms of reducing risk, I'm sorry, but we won't be having Christmas cards in school this year. Having 420 children bring in 30 or more cards each, from over 300 homes and sending them back out to over 300 other homes introduces a completely unnecessary risk for school and onwards to our community. We are however, still working hard to ensure Christmas takes place in school. We have managed to book an online live pantomime to be broadcast to all children and we will be

arranging for Christmas parties in bubbles. We are also making sure EYFS have a nativity and will record it and send it out to parents.

The school photography company are booked to come in to school on Monday to take individual portraits. Unfortunately, Years 2 and 6 will miss this. As you can imagine, the company are booked out at this time of year. However, we have managed to get them rebooked for a return visit on 19th January. Fingers crossed that Year 2 and 6 are in on that day.

Many thanks as always to our parents for continuing to work so positively with us. It certainly feels like we are all supporting each other through these times. Thank you.

Please stay safe, follow the rules and let's hope the picture starts to improve over the next few weeks.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Sean Smith
Headteacher