



Green Park Avenue, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 6EH 01902 556429/30
greenparkschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

18th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID UPDATE

I am writing to share an update on school life and to keep you informed of our current COVID risk assessment. With the easing of national lockdown restrictions schools can apply more discretion to their plans for the rest of the summer term.

We have had fabulous support from our Local Authority and Public health team throughout the pandemic and they hold regular information sharing events with special school settings. Although Government guidance this week for Step 3 of the roadmap has proposed some changes that could be implemented in school settings our Governors and school leaders, based on the local picture, have decided that our school will not be making any changes to our procedures before half term due to the vulnerability of our pupils. We would ask parents and carers visiting school to continue to support the wearing of face masks as social distancing is not possible during the handover of children to parents at the start and end of the day. We continue to encourage parents to contact school by phone rather than make face to face appointments wherever possible so that we limit contact and protect our pupils. We welcome visitors where it is essential to improving outcomes for pupils at home or school.

In recent days concerns have also been expressed about the new variant, and in particular its transmissibility amongst the unvaccinated. The Local Authority are also encouraging schools to continue with wearing face coverings, at least until half term (2 more weeks) and our staff will continue to implement this advice in communal areas although children will remain exempt. The Local Authority and school feel this is particularly important now that indoor mixing will commence from 17 May as this will increase the risk of transmission of the virus. This is a precautionary measure to enable us to see how things evolve with the easing of restrictions and understand more about the new variant of concern. We fully appreciate our stance differs from national guidance but it is for a short period of time and is in line with what we have heard parents are expressing to schools. We are continuing to support Lateral flow testing on our school site for pupils to keep levels of testing as high as possible so that asymptomatic cases do not pass the virus on to others. If any parents of secondary pupils want to opt into this offer please do not hesitate to contact the testing team in school which is supported by our school nurses. Our priority is to reduce disruption to teaching in schools caused by staff and pupils needing to isolate because of contact with a positive case. We will review our stance during half-term.

Sadly over the last two weeks we have had an increased number of pupils who have shown one or more of the three COVID symptoms whilst in school or over the previous weekend but have still come into school. Can we remind all parents that if your child(ren) show any of the following symptoms they must not attend school and must make an appointment for a PCR test. A lateral flow test result will not suffice as they do not provide the same level of sensitivity.



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- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

We also expect all staff to self-isolate if they shows these symptoms and again they cannot return to school until they have sent their PCR results in to school. Please protect all our school community, pupils and parents as we come through this national pandemic and difficult times.

We have welcomed, on a small scale, the return of Rebound therapy and Swimming sessions. After half term we will hope to build on this provision and that pupils can play outside with other peers in their cluster playground. We will retain class bubbles inside school. We plan to introduce Class Bubbles back into the dining hall - those pupils who would benefit from choosing their meal at the school servery and our school leavers. We are not planning to take part in offsite activities apart from supporting school leavers into their new settings or visiting new pupils in their current settings. We are waiting for a few more weeks to decide if we can hold parents evening or if this will need to be a virtual event later this summer. We are planning a lovely and exciting activity week for pupils in July and will prepare them for their new autumn class groups.

And finally another gentle reminder that we have cancelled the INSET day next Friday 28th May as we took a unexpected INSET day at Christmas as part of the governments advice for COVID. We will continue with the planned INSET day on Monday 7th June. If parents have made plans for the Friday 28th May please request an exceptional leave form and school will authorise your child's absence.

Can I say how amazing the support of parents and carers has been this year. Governors met this week and reflected on the autumn and spring terms and wanted to thank you all for your continued support. We hope this letter reflects the views and aspiration of our parents around COVID 19 and that we are working collaboratively to keep everyone as safe as possible in these unpredictable times.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine Dawney
Headteacher