



# Ash Grove Primary Academy

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Deputy CEO & Executive Headteacher: Mrs L Charlesworth

15<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Urgent Letter Regarding School Closures**

You will all know from the letter you received on Friday, that we have had **one positive case** in our school. As a result of that case, we closed the Y5 and Y6 bubble. This is what we are required to do by the DfE and Public Health England and by Law.

All members of the school community have strictly followed the Risk Assessment. We have all been wearing masks and visors in school, socially distancing, keeping all bubbles separate and practicing good hand hygiene at all times. Staff adherence to the Risk Assessment is monitored every day through specific checks and any lapses by individuals are immediately addressed. This means that staff from different bubbles, **do not** come into contact with each other in school and they certainly do not come within 2m of each other and not for a period of more than 15 minutes as is required to be classed as a close contact.

In spite of this, over the weekend almost all staff in school have been contacted by Test and Trace and informed that they are required to self-isolate. We have spent much of the weekend on the phone with the DfE, Public Health England and Test and Trace to try to unpick this situation.

Unfortunately, we have found that there is no way to overturn the requirement for these staff to self-isolate, therefore they must comply with the legal request to do so.

As such, it is my sad duty to inform you, that with the exception of the pupils in Y2, we have no option but to close the remaining year groups until Monday 30th November. The reason for the closure is that we cannot safely staff the school with the remaining staff available. We do have enough staff to keep one year group open. **This will be Year 2.**

All pupils in Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y3 and Y4 will now have to remain at home and access the schools remote learning offer. Information about this offer was sent out to all families on Thursday 12th November. I will arrange for this to be resent to you all. **Pupils in Nursery, Reception, Y1, Y3 and Y4 are not required to self-isolate. They have not been in contact with a positive case.** They may accompany parents and siblings in Y2 on the school run each day if needed.

Year 2 pupils will need to come to school as normal. They need to enter at the normal times through the normal gates that they use. They will enter the building through the normal doors. They will be taught by different staff to their normal team, but they are all staff that they know well. Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Matthews are familiar faces, as are Mrs Mason and Mrs Murray.



## **DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADERS**

V Williams G Williams C Chorley  
S Johnson L St Ange S Bratley

**Pupils in Y5 and Y6 must continue to self-isolate as required before.** They can also access their remote learning offer.

The remote learning offer is being delivered to you over Microsoft Teams. If you have an office 365 email account, you will already have Teams as part of that account. If you do not have an email account through Microsoft, you may download Microsoft Teams onto your device. It is free. Your children have already been taught how to access Teams. We will put a user guide onto our website to help you if you get stuck.

We know this is new to everyone and we are really devastated not to be able to be in school with the children. We are acutely aware of the strain this will place on families and the obvious inconvenience this will cause. Please rest assured that we have tried everything we can to try to resolve this with test and trace, but sadly, there is no means to reverse the isolation once in place even if this is not correct or needed.

If you have any issues with accessing remote learning, please do not hesitate to contact us, we will help you in any way we can to make this work. You can contact us at [ag-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk](mailto:ag-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk) you can get further information from [www.ashgroveprimaryacademy.co.uk](http://www.ashgroveprimaryacademy.co.uk) and our Facebook page.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Charlesworth  
Deputy CEO & Executive Headteacher  
National Leader of Education



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