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VTP/ELB/Year 1 Isolation/Follow Up Letter

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to our letters yesterday, we wanted to provide some additional information and reassurance about the confirmed positive COVID-19 case in Year 1.

Firstly, we want to send our best wishes to the child and family for a swift and speedy recovery. Having been informed on Tuesday morning a child had tested positive for Covid-19 the school followed the Government guidelines, contacted Public Health England and, acting on their advice, asked all pupils in the relevant year group to remain at home for the next 14 days.

#### Outline of Events and Key Information

We have spoken to parents in Year 1 to inform them of the confirmed case and the closure of the Year 1 bubble; this was to ensure that they understood that their Year 1 child potentially may have had contact and would need to self-isolate. Siblings and other household members are able to carry on with their normal routine. Letters provided by Public Health England were sent to all parents appraising them of the situation and offering further guidance.

It is clear that the child did not contract the virus whilst at school and it is hoped that the swift action taken will prove effective in ensuring that there is no further spread of the disease within the community.

We would like to reassure parents of pupils within the school that Westlands Primary continues to administer rigorously all of the guidance regarding hygiene measures in order to minimise the possibility of any transmission occurring during the school day. We do expect children to be in school if they are well and they will continue to work in their year group bubbles.

#### Social Media

The school has quite clear procedures that it follows at all times but 'misinformation' from social media does not help the situation and can cause additional levels of stress/upset for our parents. It is unfair on the school and its community if inaccurate information and gossip is spread amongst the local area with the posting of messages that whip up anxiety. The accurate messages are clearly given in the letters sent out and the phone calls from the school staff and this is what should be believed. We would ask for your support in ensuring that only accurate information is shared and that you sign post other parents to Weduc, the school website, or the school office.

#### Support from Parents

The school continues to act in the best interest of all of its school community. We are all trying to get used to working in a very different way and whilst we have done our best to plan for all eventualities, no doubt there will be

things that we need to review and change. However, I am confident that with your support we can adapt to new systems.

Please can we ask that you all continue to maintain social distancing on the playgrounds and only come to the school site if it is absolutely necessary. Only one parent should be with children when dropping off and picking up and we ask that siblings from other schools stay off of site unless they are your only source of collection.

Following guidance from Public Health England, if at any time anybody is self-isolating they are not allowed on the school site; this is the same for children and adults. If you have a child who is self-isolating (or you are self-isolating yourself) we would ask that you find alternative arrangements for picking up siblings. For further information on self-isolation for known contacts please see the relevant government information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person>

### **Remote Learning - providing education for pupils at home**

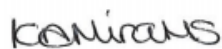
We will be providing online learning via Google Classroom for any year group bubble that we have to close. Parents of children in bubbles that have closed, who do not have internet access, should contact the school office and we will liaise with you as to best provide support for your child. For adhoc cases of self-isolation we will work with individual families to provide learning opportunities.

Thank you for your support and understanding through these challenging times

Yours sincerely



Mrs V Pettett  
Head of School



Mrs K Mirams  
Executive Headteacher