

October 2020

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of the first half term, I just wanted to write to say how proud we are of the way the children have settled back into school and how hard they are working. There is a lot that is new and different and they have handled their return so well.

There are things that we are unable to do, but I'm so proud of the way that we have been able to adapt and find new solutions - we are all showing our We Can attitude! I hope you have all had the chance to watch our harvest festival - my thanks again for your generosity and support for our local community. We have also recruited our new Head and Deputy Head Boy and Girl and leaders and members of our school council - keep an eye on the website after half term for more information, but well done to you all!

My thanks to most of you for following our new rules and routines so well. I know staggered start and finish times and our one adult on site rule makes it a little difficult for some of you, but thanks for working with us on this. Everything we do is designed to reduce risk for you all and keep us all safe. I understand the changing advice during the pandemic can be confusing. We are ready and willing to provide you with clear advice whenever necessary. Please check with us if you are ever unsure. **IF WE ARE TO REMAIN OPEN AND STAY SAFE WE NEED EVERYONE OF US TO PLAY THEIR PART. IT IS VITAL TO REMEMBER THAT:**

- **YOU MUST NOT BE ON SITE IF YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DISPLAYS SYMPTOMS OF COVID 19.**
- **THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD MUST SELF ISOLATE AND GET A TEST FOR THE PERSON WITH SYMPTOMS.**
- **IF POSITIVE, THE WHOLE HOUSEHOLD MUST CONTINUE TO ISOLATE FOR 14 DAYS. THEY MUST NOT LEAVE THE HOUSE.**
- **IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN ASKED TO SELF ISOLATE BECAUSE THEY ARE A CONTACT OF A CASE AND THEIR BUBBLE IS CLOSED, THEY MUST SELF ISOLATE. HAVING A NEGATIVE TEST HAS NO IMPACT ON THE ISOLATING TIME. THE VIRUS MAY DEVELOP AT ANY TIME OVER THE 14 DAY PERIOD. A NEGATIVE TEST ON DAY 4 DOES NOT MEAN THE CHILD WILL NOT DEVELOP THE VIRUS ON DAY 9. THESE CHILDREN SHOULD NOT LEAVE THE HOUSE AND SHOULD NOT BE ON SITE.**

Thank you for your support with this. Thank you also to families of our Year 5 children for working

with us when we had to close their bubble recently. As I write, I am pleased to confirm that there have been no further cases, a reflection of the effectiveness of the actions we have in place. We look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 3rd November. Well done for working so hard and following our home learning plan - you have even managed to elect your school council members from home which is quite an achievement! Remember that your isolation ends on 27th October.

Although next week is half term, it is important that we keep track of any pupils or household members who develop Covid symptoms. This is because we need to continue to identify contacts of cases and may even need to make decisions about self-isolation for groups of pupils. If your child or member of your household develops symptoms and you are getting a test, please email school on emergency@grendon.bham.sch.uk. Please also let us know the outcome of test whether positive or negative. Please do not use the year group emails or phone or email the school office. Staff are on holiday and will not respond.

In non Covid news, I am delighted to tell you that Mr Darby has been appointed as our Deputy Headteacher. He has been at Grendon for many years and knows many of your families and our community well. His passion and unwavering support for Grendon is evident and his focus is always on achieving the best possible outcomes for your children. You have also had a letter from our new Chair of Governors, Joanne Baker. I have worked closely with Joanne over the last few years and witnessed her dedication to the role. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with her and Mr Darby to move the school even further forward. My thanks also to Carina Monnelly-Owen, our outgoing Chair of Governors, for all that she has done for Grendon in previous years.

You may be aware that after half term, we usually hold our open day for families of children due to start in Reception in September 2021. We cannot do this in our usual way this year, but will be holding a virtual open day instead! Please check the school website from 9th November for more information and share this with family, friends and neighbours with children due to start school in September. For children in Year 6, remember that you must have completed applications for secondary schools on line by 31st October. Please ensure this is done.

Finally, as we reach half term, I need to remind you about the restrictions that Birmingham is currently subject to. We should not be mixing with any other household in any indoor setting and the rule of 6 applies to outdoors. I know this limits us all, but the impact of any school closures in response to positive cases will prove far more disruptive and your health and safety remains our biggest concern. Please work with us on this. We will see you when school reopens to children on Tuesday 3rd November.

Thank you for your continuing support in challenging times

Mrs Ridley
Headteacher