



Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and coping during these extraordinary times as we approach the end of week 3 of National Lockdown and partial school closure.

However, with over a third of our children in school it feels far from a school closure. We are also very aware that we still have several families who need to have their children back in school. Our classes are currently at the capacity outlined in our Risk Assessment. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will have more children back.

The government have said:

*During the period of national lockdown, primary schools are open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers only. **This will help support the reduction of the overall number of social contacts in our communities.** We have resisted restrictions on attendance at schools since the first lockdown but, in the face of the rapidly rising numbers of cases across the country and intense pressure on the NHS, we now need to use every lever at our disposal to **reduce all our social contacts wherever possible.** It is vital to do everything possible to tackle these trends whilst prioritising education.*

We know that receiving face-to-face education is best for children's mental health and for their educational achievement. We will continue to review the restrictions on schools and will ensure that children return to face-to face education as soon as possible.

We miss all of our children and know that they need to be in school, but whilst the virus is still prolific in our community it is not safe to expand our bubbles.

This week we received our lateral flow tests. These are for staff to take twice weekly and are part of a national effort to reduce the spread of the virus. This is as a supplementary to the protective measures that we continue to have in place. Many of our parents who are Critical workers also have access to LFT in their workplace and as a result we have seen more positive cases with in our community. Today we had to shut another of our bubbles due to a Positive case.

Further information for parents about the LFT in school can be seen here

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=b3e18468-7d5d-4b22-b437-0076bdafc426&utm_content=immediately

Our updated risk assessment and guidance to parents about expectations of remote learning will be available on our website. The guidance is a government document for all schools which we have adapted for our school. We understand the unique circumstances that our families find themselves in and the additional strain that some parents have of working from home and supporting young children with remote learning. We do not expect every piece of work to be uploaded on tapestry and if your time is limited we would far



prefer you to be spending time supporting your child rather than uploading images on Tapestry. A brief report at the end of the day explaining any difficulties or successes is enough. However, saying that, we do love seeing what your children have been doing at home and know that their friends like to see them too!

If you have any concerns about remote learning please email admin or phone the school and we will try to address these.

From next week we will have a limited number of laptops that we are able to loan to our families who are struggling with appropriate devices. Please contact your child's teacher through tapestry or once again communicate your need to the school office.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and have an opportunity to get out and enjoy the fresh air with your families. You are all doing such an amazing job and we look forward to the time when we can welcome all our children back to Montgomery.

Take care,

Miss Bridgeman

Headteacher