



THE MILFORD ACADEMY
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Companies House No. 8163499

Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parent & Carers,

We hope you are all keeping well in this continued period of challenge for us all. Sadly, today in school we have had confirmed COVID-19 cases within our school community which has resulted in us having to close our Year 1, 5 and 6 bubbles to reduce the risk of further spread of the virus. We wish these members of our community a speedy recovery. The teaching staff are all working extremely hard to ensure they offer children the best possible learning via our Seesaw platform. We do understand the additional stress managing your children at home brings whilst many of you work or have other children to look after. Thank you for your patience and support throughout this time and the coming period of isolation that some of our children will have.

There is growing evidence that children and adults are showing little/no symptoms if they have the new variant of Coronavirus. So far, all children and staff in school who have contracted the virus have mostly had mild symptoms and have made a full recovery quickly. This week, the Government has introduced 'Lateral Flow' Testing for all school staff members. The aim of these tests is to enable schools to more quickly prevent the transmission of the virus. School staff will complete these immediate Covid-19 tests twice a week.

If the staff member tests positive using a Lateral Flow test, then the bubble they are working directly with will immediately close until a full PCR test is completed. In most cases, if the Lateral Flow test is positive then the full PCR test will also be positive. If the PCR is then negative, the bubble will return to school the following day.

Can you please keep a close eye on your phones and emails, as we will be informing you via text or email if there are further positive cases which affects your child's bubble. Your child will need to self-isolate and stay at home for **10 days** if there is a positive case but household members will not need to do so unless someone begins to display symptoms.

Ideally, we hope that there will be no further bubble closures, however as you will appreciate, we are doing our very best to keep everyone safe. Please can I remind you that it is essential that the children in school do not mix with any other children or adults outside of your household unless they are in your one support bubble. In school there are children, staff and family members who are critically vulnerable, so it is vital that we all follow the 'stay at home' rules until we manage to get through this difficult time.



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On a more positive note, we have some up-coming events before half-term that I would like to make you all aware of.

Inside-out day - Wednesday 4th February

This special day will help us to explore mental health awareness and as part of this we are asking children to wear a part of their uniform inside-out - children working remotely at home can also join in with this!

Non-Screen day

Next week the children working from home will be set challenges and activities that do not need them to access / look at a screen - this is to ensure they have a break from working on their devices and fits in with our focus on mental health awareness day on Wednesday 4th.

Teacher phone calls home

We are aware that the children who are currently working remotely at home may not have seen or spoke to their teacher for a number of weeks now. As a result of this, before February half-term in two week's time the teachers will be calling families to see how you are all getting on and if there is anything we can do to help you with - it would be great for the children to speak to their teacher if they feel happy and would like to do so - in order to get through all of the calls we are going to be keeping them to 5-10 minutes in duration.

There will be more information about all of the above events appearing on Seesaw so please keep an eye out!

Finally, you may have heard that the Prime Minister has said that the earliest schools will be allowed to fully re-open is Monday 8th March. This will depend on a number of factors and we will keep you informed about this as we get more information from the Government! We very much look forward to the day when we can welcome you all back into school safely!

Best wishes,

Mr R Perkins,
Head Teacher



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