

10 September 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to you to update you with our systems and procedures since your children returned to Spring Vale. The current situation is rapidly evolving so my intention is to keep this guidance brief and you must be aware that it may change at very short notice. I am sure you are aware through the news and social media that a number of schools have had to close year group bubbles. As a school community, the safety of your children and our staff remains our number one priority. Education is vital however, we would not hesitate or have any choice to take this precaution if Public Health told us to do so.

Since 3<sup>rd</sup> September your children have been amazing and learning continues at a rapid pace. This is because the support of yourselves and the community is overwhelming.

September and a new school year often marks the start of winter colds, chicken pox and other illnesses. These will always exist in a primary school. The three key symptoms of a potential case for us as a primary school remain:-

- ⊗ A new, continuous cough
- ⊗ A high temperature
- ⊗ A loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell

**If your child is displaying one of these symptoms please call 111 where medical professionals will take you through the next steps.** As a school we cannot and will not diagnose medical conditions. **Please inform school if the advice and next steps you have been given is to have a test and inform us immediately of the results. This includes the weekend or late at night. Out of school hours, please email [springvaleprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:springvaleprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk). During school hours you could email and call the school on 01902 556589. It is vital that you do this to keep us all safe.**

We have a system in place if a child develops symptoms in school where we will call the parents of that child immediately and take them through the next steps.

If we have a positive case that involves a child or a member of staff in a bubble we will take immediate advice from Public Health England. A risk assessment is undertaken by them and we will be given clear advice about our next steps. This may result in the closure of a school bubble. I must make you aware that this could happen at very short notice and would result in children and staff from that bubble self-isolating for 14 days. Depending on who tests positive within the bubble, whole households may or may not need to self-isolate for 14 days.

The closure of school bubbles has often been done as a precaution to enable parents to monitor children to ensure they do not develop one of the above symptoms. We can only act when a positive result has been confirmed to school, thus resulting in a short notice text and/or letter. We will never hide or cover up a positive result. In first instance, we will inform parents of the affected bubble immediately and then write to all other parents. We hope we never have to do this, however we are realistic and as a parent of school aged children myself, I have already thought about childcare should the need arise. As a school, we have also prepared learning resources for children should they need to learn from home (we hope we do not need to use these packs).

The main message remains handwashing, social distancing both within school and in the real world and following updated guidance remains vital. We update staff and children where appropriate and this is why I am sending you this letter. I cannot send you details of every tweak and change we may make however we have made our environment as safe as we possibly can although there are times where this

proves very difficult. We have to understand we are primary school of 300 children, safety measures have to be balanced with an outstanding education.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Blunt  
Headteacher



Miss K Manning  
Acting Deputy Headteacher