

July 2021 Newsletter



The Merton Primary School
To be the best we can be.

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Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community,

As I am sure you will be aware, we have had several bubbles leave school in the past few days (see below). I would like to reassure you that each year group has been required to isolate based on a single positive case only and that Public Health are classing these as separate single cases as oppose to any kind of outbreak that could result in whole school closure. In each case we work closely with the DfE and Public Health to ensure the appropriate staff and children are protected. Classes are also deep cleaned following any positive case. When concerning the decision over staff needing to isolate this depends on their level of contact they have had with the individual however with the children it will involve the whole year group as a precautionary measure.

That said, I appreciate that it is unnerving to see so many children having to isolate. Recent news reports suggest that there are plans being put into place by the government to modify the guidelines around schools having to isolate in this way. We would welcome this as long as it puts the safety of our children first and with this in mind it is important to make it clear that all children, including the confirmed cases, are relatively healthy and doing well.

I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding around having to isolate children and we recognise the impact this has on the rest of the household when it happens. Please support the situation by making sure your child isolates if asked to do so and does not walk with you to school, go out to play around the local area. On a brighter note, you will see below that most children isolating will have the opportunity to return to school before the end of the year and where possible I would encourage them to do so.

I particularly hope our Year 6 children will return next Friday when we will attempt to put on some of the nice things they may have feared they would miss! The Merton PTA have kindly rearranged their Year 6 party afternoon for this last day and it will be a great outdoor, COVID safe, fun way to finish off the year along with some of other fun outdoor plans throughout the rest of the day. We would really like to say goodbye to our wonderful year 6 as best we can!

We have been asked by many parents what will happen if they can't or don't feel they can send their child to school if eligible. Whilst we understand the apprehension around sending them in, we won't be able to authorise any such absences but we won't be fining parents either as we understand how hard things are at the moment. A full program of Home Learning will be available for anyone who is isolating with a selection of curriculum related ideas for anyone who can't get their child to school due to a sibling who's isolating. We are always happy to talk to parents and help them find the best solution to support their individual situation.

To those who remain in school, we are looking forward to the final week and want to reassure you that school will remain a fun, happy environment where children can safely learn. The support you have shown us through the most challenging of years has been fantastic and we are very grateful. On a personal note I would also like to say how much I have enjoyed my first year at The Merton Primary School. Despite the challenges faced, I have really enjoyed working with such a brilliant community and that includes parents, pupils and of course staff who have worked tirelessly. I only hope next year will present us with less restrictions and problems so we can fully enjoy school life at The Merton! **Mr Lee**

Note: Year 5—Returning 5/7/21,

Year R,3,6—Returning 9/7/21



