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10th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks for your kind words, support and encouragement as we have returned to school this September. It is indeed wonderful to hear full classes learning as the days unfold.

School is a very different place but all children, families and staff have soon adjusted to the new routines and schedules and we are grateful for the positivity and commitment you have shown to getting our school community back together. If you have questions, concerns or just need a chat with the class teacher, please do not hesitate to ring or email the school office and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

I am writing now to clarify some of the questions that have been arising over the last few days.

STAY SAFE – AVOID A YEAR GROUP OR WHOLE SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

The best way to avoid infection and ultimately avoid a year group bubble or whole school lockdown is to **limit contact with others as much as possible** and to stay home wherever you can, including working from home wherever possible.

Limit contact with other people and respect social distancing where you do go out – keep at least 2 metres from those not in your household and avoid shaking hands or hugging. 2 metres is the height of a 6ft person! It is further away than you think. Please be conscious of this.

Wear a face covering where you cannot keep at least 2 metres from others, particularly in indoor public spaces. This includes, but is not limited to, shops and public transport.

It is also critical that everybody observes the following key behaviour:

- HANDS** Wash your hands regularly for 20 seconds
- FACE** Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.
- SPACE** Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place.

Staying apart from people who are not in your support bubble is vital, particularly at drop off and pick up times. It is very tempting to spend a further few minutes having a chat. In order to avoid the risk of infection transmission, **we urge you** to pick up or drop off and **go**. This will enable us to avoid year group isolations or a whole school lockdown.

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Oldham Local Restrictions are still in place

Additional restrictions designed to curb the spread of Coronavirus were introduced locally on Friday 21st August. These restrictions are still in place.

National Government guidance on gatherings is changing from Monday 14th September 2020 as per the government briefing held on Wednesday evening.

Even though the guidelines on gatherings will change nationally, Oldham's restrictions on not mixing with other households remain the same.

We need everyone to carry on following these instructions which apply to all Oldham residents and anyone visiting our borough.

- You cannot socialise with anyone who does not live in your house (unless they are part of your support bubble). **This includes having another parent/family picking up your child. All pick-ups and drop offs have to be carried out by household members or people in your official support bubble. In emergency situations, if your child is registered at Diamonds, we will be able to accommodate them. Please ring the office to alert us before the end of school if this service is required.**
- **Please also ensure that on pick up your child/ren are not running around outside the school grounds mixing with other year groups.**
- You must avoid using public transport, except for essential travel
- When visiting shops, when on public transport or in other enclosed or crowded spaces you should wear a face covering
- Weddings, civil partnership and funerals should be limited to household members and close family. No more than 20 people in total.
- Restaurants are encouraged to only seat people who make reservations in advance, up to a maximum of six people per table
- If you run a pub, restaurant, cafe, shop, place of worship, community centre, leisure and entertainment venue, or visitor attraction, you should ensure people maintain social distancing and avoid physical contact - [COVID-19 Secure guidance](#) - GOV.UK website.
- We are advising any residents who have recently shielded to continue taking extra care now that the shielding process has formally ended in Oldham - [Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19](#)
- Sports: Informal sports activity is not permitted, where this involves meeting people from outside your household. You can play a team sport only where this is formally organised by a sports club or similar organisation, and sports-governing body guidance has been issued.

We're urging all people of our school community to continue to take the risk of coronavirus seriously and to comply with current guidelines. This will help to avoid a year group bubble isolation or whole school lockdown.

We have also had many questions about what to do if you have coronavirus symptoms. I have attached a clear and useful document that will answer any questions regarding procedures to take but please do not hesitate to contact school should you need anything further.

With very best wishes,
Mrs S M Hall

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