



COVID CATCH UP



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of our first half term back at school since lock down, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support so far. I know that returning back to school life has been an anxious time for some children and parents/carers and we are very mindful that the threat of COVID is ever present and will not be going away for some time. We have done our very best to risk assess every eventuality and try to limit the possibility of transmitting COVID, however, we are aware that that this virus is going to affect our community and we have to be pro-active in our approach to this threat.

For this reason I just want to draw your attention to the latest guidelines at our disposal, so that you are fully aware of the DO's and DON'Ts at this current time .

Tees Valley Education have decided to recommend the following:

- The wearing of face coverings - for staff and visitors - in areas where the layout of the school makes it particularly difficult to maintain social distancing e.g. when parents are collecting pupils at the start and the end of the day. We therefore ask that you **wear a mask at all times when arriving on school grounds**
- Only one adult comes onto school premises to collect the children.
- We will also be restricting pupils from other schools coming onto school grounds for the foreseeable future .

RULES

The "Rule of Six" will continue to apply outdoors and in private gardens

People must not meet with anybody outside their household or support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place- **The class BUBBLES we use at school do not apply to this, so no pupils should be meeting up in each others houses at this time to avoid contamination and a rise in positive tests .**

Going for COVID test.

It is really important that pupils who have been absent as a result of Covid symptoms do not return to school before the 10/14 day self isolation period has ended or they have had a negative test. The following procedures need to be followed:

1. Parent should always inform the office directly of reason for absence.
2. If Covid symptoms of the child are given as the reason, the child must be absent for **10 days self isolation** and parents should arrange a test. If there are any siblings/household members, they must **isolate for 14 days**.
3. If family/child is advised by test and trace to self isolate after close contact with a positive case, parents are to advise the academy of when the isolation period starts and ends.
4. Pastoral team will make a follow up phone call to get date/time of test, if booked, and confirm again 10/14 day self isolation period /date of return to school.
5. If your child becomes clear of symptoms you will still need to follow test and trace guidance.
6. If you contact the office with a positive test result, the office staff will confirm 10 day isolation period for symptomatic pupil and 14 day period for siblings.
7. If you contact the office with a negative test result, office staff will inform you that the child and any siblings can return to school the next day providing **they have no symptoms and they should report to main entrance at 9:00 a.m.**

Contact Information

Can you please inform us immediately if you change your phone number or your address. It is vital that we can contact you whilst your child is in the academy should the need arise. This may be for medical purposes but may also be vital during the current pandemic.

Reading books

Please can we remind parents that as reading is our number one priority, we ask that you support us and ensure that the children read with you at home as well as in school. We collect books in on a Friday and give new books out each Monday. If your child hasn't changed their book please let the staff on the gate know and they will arrange this for you .

Sorry you're leaving



May I take a moment to share with you some very exciting news about a member of our Brambles Primary Academy staff. It is my great pleasure to announce that Mrs L Stogdale has been successful in her application to be Head of Academy at Pennyman Primary Academy. This will begin in January 2021.

Mrs Stogdale has worked very hard as Deputy Head Teacher in the past few years at Brambles Primary Academy and has always ensured that she has put the best interests of the pupils and families in our community first. The staff and I we will be very sad to see her go, but we wish her all the very best in her new appointment.

Have a wonderful half term and we will see you back on Monday 2nd November 2020.

Stay Safe. Ms K Gleave