



Venerable Bede Church of England Academy

Dayspring Trust



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Headteacher: Mr D Airey (BSc Hons)
Executive Headteacher: Mrs G A Booth (BA Hons/M.Ed.)

19 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we said at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, we will always keep you updated of any events that happen in school. You might be aware that yesterday we were notified by parents of 7 pupils who had tested positive for coronavirus. The breakdown of positive cases are as follows; two Y7, three Y8, one Y9 and one Y11 pupil.

As always, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and associated families are at the centre of what we do and the actions we take. We continue to follow the national guidelines from the NHS/DFE and PHE in determining what action to take, and which pupils to send home. When we spoke to Public Health yesterday regarding our situation, it was reassuring to know that they consider this a very minor cluster of cases and have indicated that the actions we have taken are correct and proportionate.

In line with our Risk Assessment, we evaluated all close contacts of the pupils who have tested positive for coronavirus. For Y7, Y9 and Y11, the close contacts have been sent home. In Y8 we had 3 pupils return positive results of which we were informed at the beginning of the day. We had also been monitoring the attendance of our Y8 cohort and noticed that it had been falling since the start of this week. Both of these factors together have led us to take the decision to send all of our Y8 pupils home as a mega bubble to self-isolate. Although we had two cases in Y7, one of the pupils had not been in school and will not have transmitted the virus to anyone. As always, we send pupils home in as timely a manner as is possible and practicable. Please remember that pupils who are in school have not tested positive, and that any pupil who is symptomatic is immediately isolated.

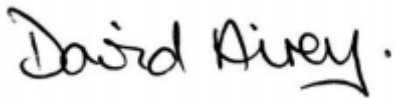
We know that you will appreciate this decision was not taken lightly. As all of Y8 (and all members of class 7W2) are self-isolating, we can move the remote education plan for these groups to Stage 2. This means that they will follow their full school timetable at home and will receive live lessons, wherever possible, delivered using Microsoft Teams. This is a platform which we have worked hard to implement. It is the main aspect of our remote education plan which you as parents asked us to develop.

I would like to reassure you that our school remains a safe place for pupils, staff and visitors. We have our day cleaners who work tirelessly throughout the day sanitising all of the high touch and high traffic areas in school. Our pupils and staff have been fantastic, taking responsibility for their own workspaces and making sure that they are sanitised each and every lesson. School is thoroughly deep cleaned each evening when all of the pupils have left the building, using the procedures and products suggested by Government guidance and outlined in our risk assessment. We accept that transmission of the virus can happen anywhere, which is why we steadfastly implement all of the measures which help to keep us all safe.

We really appreciate the support you give to us as families of our pupils. Your cooperation and speed of response each and every time we have to send pupils home makes our job of caring for everyone easier. We all understand that corona virus is going to be around in our society for some time. This is why it is essential that we share our experiences and thoughts in order to try and continually improve our response.

Finally, if your child cannot access their remote learning resources because they do not have a suitable device, or do not have a connection to the internet, please get in touch. We might be able to help. We have purchased a number of additional laptops which families can loan, and we also have a number of Wi-Fi dongles, which connect to the internet if you have no home connection of your own (free of charge connection). We will do all that we can to enable your child to access their remote learning.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Airey." The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Mr D Airey
Headteacher