

25 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### COVID Update

You will no doubt be aware that the number of positive COVID cases in Bromley has been rising over the past two weeks. This mirrors the increases we are seeing in some of our neighbouring local authorities, particularly Bexley, which has the second highest 7-day case rate in London.

The rise in cases in Bromley is impacting on schools across the borough and has meant the closure of some bubbles and year groups in NEST schools. Please be assured that leaders and staff in our schools continue to be vigilant, implementing a range of measures to suppress the transmission of the virus. We are all hopeful that the measures implemented in the last month by Government, will have a positive impact in lowering cases.

The majority of the cases across the Trust have been in children who are asymptomatic and have been tested as a result of another family member showing symptoms. We are aware that most of the infections are entering our schools via external transmission and I ask you to continue to support schools by wearing masks, adhering to social distancing guidelines, ensuring good respiratory hygiene and following lockdown regulations.

We greatly appreciate the speed with which families notify our schools of new cases. It enables school leaders to contact the Department of Education and Public Health England quickly for decisions on the breadth of closure needed. This has limited cross-bubble transmission within our schools. We are aware that some of you may get the results of a COVID test out of school hours, so to support communication of a positive case during this time we ask you to email the school office as soon as possible. The details of the information required is shown overleaf. This will enable us to pick up information and contact the Department of Education or Public Health England as soon as possible on the next working day. Please note that your email will not be responded to until the next working day in school.

I am aware that this is a very difficult time for our schools and for our families, particularly with the recent escalation in cases in the area. We want our children to be in schools, happy and learning and in order to do this, we need to continue work together to minimise transmissions. Recently, we have had some positive news around vaccine development, so there is a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.

As ever, I thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully,



Paula Farrow

CEO

## **Reporting a Positive COVID Test Result Out of Hours**

Please email the school office with the following information:

- Child's Name
- Year Group/Class
- Date of First Symptoms
- Date Test was Taken
- Date Positive Result was Received
- Date your Child last Attended School

If you have another child in school, please also confirm their name and year group as the whole household will be required to isolate.