

7 January 2022

Dear Parents and families

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. I am delighted that schools are able to open as normal at the start of the year. It has been lovely to be back at school with the children. You will be aware that we have had a number of staff absences this week and we expect this to continue for the foreseeable future.

Thank you to all the parents who supported their children in being back at school on time every day this week. We remind you that all children are expected in school every day. This is a legal requirement. Whilst we appreciate this is a challenging time, we ask that you ensure your child is at school, on time, every day unless they are ill or have tested positive for COVID. We are required by law to follow up rigorously any unauthorised absences from school. A chart to support you with self-isolation is at the end of this letter. You can find further information on the government website to support you in knowing what to do. [current guidance on contact tracing and isolation](#)



We were delighted to see the creativity and work the children completed for their Headteachers' challenges, due today. I am very much looking forward to viewing them all before they are collated together for staff judgements next week. Meanwhile, I couldn't resist sharing a few that were shown to me today. Can you work out which staff they are from the images?

We aim to remain fully open for our children and families unless it is not safe to do so. The school has been able to remain open due to the tireless efforts of our staff who continue to remain focused in their flexibility while working together, shortening lunch times and lengthening time spent after school. They have stepped in wherever needed and really gone the extra mile! They have all worked to ensure the children receive a full and enriched learning programme. I am sure you would like to join me in thanking them for their professionalism, hard work and in wishing them a pleasant and restful weekend, in preparation for the weeks ahead. We thank you in advance and appreciate your patience and understanding during what may prove to be a challenging time.

A few changes have been made to the school day to support the safety of all children, staff and their families. These changes have not interrupted the flow of our school day. Whole school assemblies have reverted to being virtual in school and we are operating in phase bubbles wherever practical, e.g. Phases are in separate sittings for lunchtime and playtimes are in different playgrounds. This is to support the safety of our staff, children and their families.

To support the school in remaining open and minimising asymptomatic spread of the virus, we encourage you to LFD test your child twice weekly.

The new school PE uniform is now available at Rough Cuts in Chapel Market. Children are expected to be in full PE uniform, black shorts and white t-shirts. During the cold weather they can wear leggings or long-sleeved skins underneath. They must wear sneakers, plimsols or trainers for PE.

Lastly, I am delighted to inform you that Amethyst Baker, our Year 1 Teacher has joined us as a permanent member of the team following her successful appointment in December. I know you will join myself and rest of the team in welcoming her on board.

Meanwhile, I wish you a restful and safe weekend. Please contact the school office if you have any questions, queries or concerns. They will be able to help you or put you in contact with someone who can.

Best Wishes



Michelle Bahn
Headteacher

