

23rd October 2020

Ms J Palmer BSc, MA, MA, NPQH
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

We have reached the end of term one, so this is an ideal time for me to touch base with you.

I would like to start off with a thank you to all of the staff of Meadowfield School who despite very challenging and extraordinary times, have been consistently committed to ensuring every pupil is receiving the very best in terms of education and care. I hope that you have enjoyed reading the newsletter which shows that in the face of the struggles we all face, staff make sure that our pupils continue to:

- Feel safe and happy
- Thrive
- Learn
- Enjoy their school structure and routine
- Enjoy social opportunities
- Experience a nurturing environment

I would also like to thank parents and carers for their support and positive comments. For example, just this week, I had a couple of informal chats with a grandparent of one of our pupils, who had nothing but praise for all that staff are doing.

A parent who recently emailed into the school office said, *"You are all doing a cracking job. You all deserve a medal – especially the staff in the car park when it is hammering down with rain. Have a good break."*

Peter Lewer, from KCC, who recently completed a very thorough safeguarding review, complimented the school on the very warm, open and caring culture. He saw this consistently throughout the school and it is important to remember that a positive culture does not happen by accident, it is formed by brilliant staff who genuinely want the best for every child.

All parents and carers can help us to keep the school community as COVID secure as possible by waiting in cars when dropping off or picking children up. If it is absolutely necessary go get out of your car, please wear a mask and it is important for all parents/carers to practice social distancing when on the school grounds, thank you. I would also like to remind parents/carers that if anyone in your household/bubble is showing COVID symptoms or awaiting a test result, pupils must not be sent into school.

I have had a couple of questions from parents about school bubbles, so let me take this opportunity to explain:

- Pupils are in class bubbles and are also part of a larger corridor bubble.
- For the most part, staff only work within their class bubble, but in some instances staff support other classes within a corridor. Helping pupils into school is an example of a time where a member of staff will assist children from across a corridor bubble.
- In addition, staff from one class may cover an absent member of staff from another class and this occurs only within a corridor bubble.
- I am sure you are all aware that it is accepted practice to have mixed bubbles on pupil transport.

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I believe it is quite notable that, despite having over 500 people coming and going each day, we have had only 2 cases of COVID and 0 cases among the pupil population. All credit for this goes to staff who are doing all they can to make sure school is as safe as possible during these difficult times.

When making decisions about class and/or corridor closures to minimise the risk of transmission of the virus, I will always:

- Err on the side of caution
- Follow the advice of Public Health England
- Liaise with Kent County Council
- Make an informed decision once I have collected all of the relevant information

I cannot tell you what next term will bring, but I can assure you that we will endeavour to keep everyone safe as that is our number one priority. I realise that we are all dealing with a sense of uneasiness in these challenging times so let's continue to work together as a school community for the benefit of the pupils.

I hope that everyone stays safe and healthy during the half term break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Wednesday, 4th November.

Yours faithfully



Jill M. Palmer
Principal