



Dear Students, Parents and Carers

## Newsletter (9) – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### Email re Holidays in Term Time

Yesterday a letter went out in my and Mr Middleton's name regarding holidays in term time and penalty notices. We are required to send this letter each year to all families, even those with very high attendance, to inform families that we are a school who can use Penalty Notices if required. However, the covering email that went out should have explained this clearly so that families were not worried. I am sorry that this message did not have the usual tone and may have caused some concern. I hope this reassures everyone.

### Covid Cases

Managing Covid cases is clearly becoming part of the way of life for all schools. We have what we hope is a smooth process for managing these situations. Our priority is to identify people who have had proximity contact and to ask them to self-isolate. Parents and carers have been fantastic responding to this so far and we have managed to send students home swiftly. Thank you for your continuing support with this. I can assure you that, if you are not contacted, then your child has not had first-hand contact with the affected person and therefore is not considered to be a risk. We aim to identify all contacts, whether in lessons, breaks and even out of school time and we will then contact families of all of these students.

The rules for identifying for how long students have to be out of school are consistent, but this can lead to different lengths of time self-isolating being advised. The dates given for the isolation are based on the date when the potential exposure could have occurred within school. Depending on when we receive the notification will decide how many remaining days there are left until it is deemed safe to stop self-isolating. I can reassure everyone that every student is being treated the same and we are following all safety rules.

When your child is self-isolating, even if well, it is important that you do follow full rules with them. This means that that they cannot go out in public until the date for ending self-isolation as shown on your letter from school, including going out after school and weekends. We have had some contacts from primary schools that older brothers and sisters who are self-isolating are picking up younger siblings, and this is not allowed. I know self-isolation presents many challenges but it essential that we keep each other safe by following these rules.

### Learning at home

The new normal is to have classes where some students are in school and some are at home. This is different to lockdown last year where all students were off. We are developing the quality of this blended learning and this will be a focus of our INSET day next Friday. Access to technology at home continues to be important and we are in the process of identifying families where this might be an issue, in the hope that we can help with this situation.

### Critical safety messages re Covid Rules

We have had reports from the community that some students are not following the Covid rules. Customers at the Co-op in Madley Park reported that students were there after school not wearing masks; other people have said that they see groups in close contact breaking the rule of six afterschool. It is so important that all the rules are followed all the time, to reduce the chance of bringing cases into your homes and into school. I know many

students will be doing what is right, but please do emphasise the need for self-responsibility when parents and school are not there to tell students how to behave.

We will continue to work together through these worrying times and thank you again for your full support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R Shadbolt". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Mr R Shadbolt  
Headteacher