

Waterhouses CE Primary Academy

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25th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write to you to notify you of a number of points.

Class Bubbles

At the start of the term we established 4 bubbles within school, with each class being its own bubble. From next week, Penguins and White Tigers classes will combine and become 1 bubble. We must stress that the 2 classes will continue to be taught separately and will not join together in the classroom environment. The difference will be when the children are playing outside. We will continue to encourage the children to socially distance during these times and hand washing/sanitising will be maintained when going out and returning back in after time spent outside. It has become evident over the past weeks that when staff have become absent there will not be the capacity to maintain the separation of all classes at all times. As we informed you of previously, staff are already having to work across more than one class/bubble in order for us to be able to run the school and deliver the current educational offering.

Toilets/Washing hands

As we all know, one way to help to reduce possible spread of the Covid-19 virus is to wash hands thoroughly and regularly. We are doing this at school, and we very much hope that you are also doing the same at home, in order to limit any possible spread.

This vital control measure takes a significant amount of time and is reducing the teaching and learning time we are able to provide. With this in mind, from Monday the current disabled toilet by the Community Entrance will become a Gender Neutral toilet. This will help us to reduce the time it currently takes for the children to go to the toilet and wash their hands. The children will be told about this change on Monday and they will be informed that if they wish to use the Gender Neutral toilet they are able to do so. Equally, they can continue to use the toilets that they currently have access to.

Covid-19 Cases Locally

Finally, some of you may be aware that there have been some cases of Covid-19 in the locality and the national press are reporting the seemingly daily increases in positive test results. QEGS Secondary school have had 2 cases amongst the students this week. They have followed guidelines and kept year group bubbles at home and notified all students who were close contacts of the positive cases and told them they must isolate for 14 days, none of whom are siblings of children here at Waterhouses. We are doing all we can here at school to remind our children about how we can follow guidelines to reduce the possibilities of transmission, firstly to protect themselves, but also to protect those around them, as well as people they do not know.

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Please continue to do all you have been doing up to this point, helping you and your children to stay safe, and at the same time helping to reduce transmission rates. We can all play our part in protecting those people in our society who are most vulnerable to this virus.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Wood', written in a cursive style.

Mr David Wood
Headteacher