



Bessemer Grange Primary School

Part of the Bessemer and Keyworth Federation

www.bessemergrangeprimary.co.uk

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Executive Headteacher: Ms Sarah Beard

Head of School: Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead

Wednesday 16th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been informed that there has been a significant increase in the number of cases of Covid 19 in Southwark.

We are also all hearing every day of schools which have had to close either fully or partially due to coronavirus cases.

We do not want you to panic, or feel that it is not safe to send your child to school. The increase in the number of hospitalisations is very small and the evidence is still that it is extremely unlikely for children to become seriously ill with coronavirus. In school we are continuing to take all precautions possible, including regular handwashing, cleaning of equipment and keeping our year group bubbles separate and we have not had any cases of coronavirus yet.

However, staffing at Bessemer is already very tight due to the new arrangements in place and we are concerned about reaching a point at which we cannot safely stay fully open due to a lack of staff in school. We have staff in school who are classified as vulnerable who continue to come to work because the precautions in place make them feel safe enough to do so. We also have families with vulnerable members who need to feel that they are not putting their family at risk by attending school. Therefore it is essential that all parents and carers follow the guidance that we have set out in previous letters and in our risk assessment.

- **Only one parent or carer per family should attend pick up and drop off.**
- **Please pick up your child quickly and leave. Please do not linger outside school.**
- **Please do not come onto site for any reason, even to retrieve your child's bike or scooter, children must get them themselves.**
- **Please respect social distancing guidelines and stay at least 1 metre from other adults and in groups no larger than 6.**
- **Please remain socially distant from staff on the gates. Wherever possible communication should be via phone or email.**
- **Children should not be bringing bags or items from home unless they are essential. Most children will only need a water bottle so will not need a bag. Children may also bring packed lunches, mobile phones if essential and medication/creams if**

agreed. School reading books should be brought back to school when finished. No other items are allowed from home; no books, stationary or toys.

We are as desperate as everyone else to get back to normal, and can not wait until these restrictions become unnecessary again, but in the meantime please work with us to try to ensure that we can stay open and that your children can receive an uninterrupted education.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Whitehead