



Chestnuts Primary School

'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

Tel: 01908 373748
email: office@chestnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk
www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk

Headteacher: Miss Becky Skillings
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Katie Robins
Assistant Headteachers: Mrs Sam Sear & Mrs Nicola Tearle

9 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the final two weeks of the Autumn Term, the excitement in school is definitely ramping up. Christmas songs are being played, lines are being learnt, decorations made and Christmas trees are sparkling. It really is starting to feel like Christmas!

You will, I'm sure, be aware that many schools in Milton Keynes, and across the country, have had to close various bubbles, sometimes repeatedly, due to COVID infections in schools. So far, Chestnuts pupils and staff have not had any positive cases and we therefore have not had to close any bubbles. We very much want this to remain the case. As we get closer to the school holidays, this becomes even more important for so many of us.

If we should be informed of a positive case in school from Friday 11 December onwards, all pupils and staff that have been in contact with the positive testing person would need to isolate, by law, for 14 days. This would include Christmas Day. I'm sure you will agree that none of us want this to happen. We will be taking various steps in school to reduce the risk even further from Friday but also need you to help us achieve the best Christmas possible for all Chestnuts families, including staff.

We have become aware that several children have been having play dates and sleepovers since we came out of lock down. We are not in a position to instruct you in how you live your lives away from school but do need to remind you that Milton Keynes is currently deemed to be in Tier 2 which means that there can be no visits to other homes (unless part of a support bubble). The number of children informing us that they are visiting others is causing some concern to staff and other families who wish to be able to make the most of the few days of relaxed rules over the Christmas period. Please help us to do this by avoiding play dates and ensuring social distancing is followed at all times – particularly in the staff car park and outside St George's Road.

Within school, we will be reducing bubbles to class groups from Friday 11th December and not allowing any staff other than the 2 members attached to each class to enter. This reduces the risk and prevents as many families as possible being impacted should we have a positive case. Staff will



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Fairfields Primary School
Apollo Avenue Fairfields, Milton Keynes MK11 4BA. The company number is 07698904 and is registered in England.



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therefore be covering their own year group's breakfast clubs, break and lunch duties without any break of their own. They are willingly doing this to reduce the risk and allow as many of the Chestnuts Community to have as good a Christmas as they can.

Please ensure you bring your child to school at the correct time to allow the staff allocated to each class to collect them, and not have other staff having to mix the bubbles by taking late comers to class.

If you have more than one child at Chestnuts, we are going to ask you to change your collection, if at all possible, for these last 6 days only. Please collect all your children at the earliest time (currently collecting at the latest) so that they do not have to wait in the cold for as long. Normally, we bring them out at the time of their eldest sibling's bubble closure but, whilst we are stripping back the number of adults interacting with each class, we don't have the staff to keep the children in the classrooms therefore all children will be brought out at their own bubble closure time.

If you have any children in:

EYFS and Year 2 please collect all of your children at 3.00pm from Friday 11 December until the end of term.

Year 1 and Year 3 please collect all of your children at 3.10pm from Friday 11 December until the end of term.

Year 4 and Year 5 please collect all of your children at 3.20pm from Friday 11 December until the end of term.

Year 6 with no siblings will continue to leave school at 3.25pm.

If you are unable to make this change, please do not worry but please make sure your child has several layers as they will need to wait outside until your arrival.

We will also be incredibly strict about not having conversations at the gate. If you need to inform us of anything, you must contact the office. We will telephone you if there is anything to report at the end of the day.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us keep the children, staff and families of Chestnuts safe. Together we can aim for us all to be able to enjoy a safe and festive Christmas break.

Yours faithfully



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Becky Skillings
Headteacher



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