



Phoenix Primary School

Marlborough Grove

London SE1 5JT

Telephone: 020 7231 8622

Fax: 020 7394 6652

Email: phoenix@mayflowerfederation.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr Simon Assig

Friday 16th October 2020

RE: School Update – Covid-19

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are almost through the first half term of a very different academic year, and I thought that I would take this opportunity to update you in regards to the latest news from within the school. I would like to start by saying a really big thank you and well done to all the families and staff who have worked above and beyond in order to make the start to the new year so excellent. Each and every time I walk the school to see what is going on in classrooms, I am filled with joy to see all the children producing such amazing work and participating in such outstanding learning. The children's hard work is why all school staff do this job – and above all else, their success is paramount to us.

Learning and Catch Up

Teachers and support staff have worked so hard this half term to assess children as accurately as possible, and put plans into place in order to make sure that any child who may need further support in their learning have access to it. Often children who attend school each day are able to make such phenomenal progress through consistent high-quality teaching. Any child who we know may need a little extra support is then targeted from our intervention staff. Further plans are now being made to ensure that the missed time away from the school closure does not affect children's attainment within our school. I will be in touch with parents/ carers soon after the half term to outline exactly what this means for your child. In the meantime, please be aware that we are working relentlessly to ensure that children across the school are able to reach their full potential.

Please also note my letter that was sent earlier this week outlining the plans for parent/ carer telephone conversations instead of our usual parents'/ carers' evening. If you are interested in having a telephone conversation with your child's class teacher then please do not hesitate to return the form to be allocated a convenient time.

Tier 2 Announcement

Those that have been keeping up-to-date with government updates will be aware that from the weekend, London will now be placed in to Tier 2 restrictions in order to further enhance controlling transmission of the virus. Within this tier, it does not affect the running of the school at present, but please feel rest assured that all the procedures we have in place are reviewed monthly to ensure we do our best to keep the whole school community as safe as possible.

Please be aware that there are further restrictions put into place from the weekend for Tier 2 locations. For further information regarding the limitations to Tier 2 areas, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-covid-alert-level-high>



Social Distancing: Start and Finish Times

Our busiest times within the school day consist of the start and end times when parents are on-site dropping off or collecting their children. Whilst we all want our children to make best use of their time in school, we intend to still stick to our staggered start and finish times in order to ease congestion into and out of the school. Please be reminded that no child will be marked down as late prior to 9:30am. Also, in order for everyone to do their bit – please avoid crowding the gates prior to the start of the day and also whilst waiting on site for your child to be released from their class teacher. It is imperative that all parents/ carers try their best to maintain a safe 2m distance at any time while around or in the school.

Face Masks

In order to further protect ourselves from transmitting the virus within school, it is asked that all parents/ carers, whilst on school grounds, adhere to wearing a face covering, where medically able to do so. The face covering will not only protect you from the virus whilst in a heavily populated area, but it will also protect others. DfE guidance still remains that PPE equipment, such as face coverings, are not effective for school staff for long periods of time. As a result, it is important to respect the 2m distance with school staff to lower the risk as much as possible. I appreciate this is very difficult, especially during times of communication but if we all try our best and work together to adhere to the rules, it will make the school as safe as it can possibly be at this time.

Contact Details

Please be sure to keep the school updated with any changes to personal contact details. This includes ensuring that all addresses, email addresses and mobile phone numbers are the most recent. It is also important that the school has the most recent up-to-date contact details for at least two relatives (beyond the parents/ carers) or close friends who live nearby the school that we are able to contact in the event we are unable to contact you in emergency cases. Should you need to change any of these details then please provide these to the school office, as a matter of urgency.

Help and Support

I fully appreciate that at this time families may need support in a variety of different forms. Please be aware that school is more than committed to the well-being of all children and families and will do our utmost to be here if you need any advice or support. Please contact the school office in the first instance with any queries or concerns you may be having, where your email can be directed to the most appropriate member of staff. I have a wonderful team of staff around me who will be able to assist you so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Conclusion

I hope that the contents of this letter outline just how committed we are to providing your children with the best education possible, with the limitations we have to put in place in order to keep your children safe. I would like to reiterate just how much of a pleasure it is to have all the children back in school, and I know that we can continue to work together to overcome the barriers many people are facing. Please never underestimate just how much your appreciation, understanding and kindness to all members of staff goes a very long way.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Assig
Headteacher