

# Glebe School

Hawes Lane, West Wickham, BR4 9AE

Headteacher: Mr I. Travis

Telephone: 020 8777 4540

Email: [admin@glebe.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@glebe.bromley.sch.uk)



08.01.21

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope that all pupils and families had a peaceful Christmas and are keeping safe and well. I am sorry to hear of families affected by Covid. We hope that those who have been unwell are on the road to recovery at this very difficult time.

Sadly Ian Travis, our Headteacher and Mike Kitteridge, Deputy Headteacher remain extremely unwell, therefore I am writing to give updates and information following the letter communicated on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, the Prime Minister announced a further national lockdown until February half term (with measures being reviewed in half term), as a result of soaring cases and hospitalisations due to Covid-19 and its virulent new strain. The percentage of pupils and staff in secondary schools testing positive for Covid-19 is significantly higher than in primary settings and we have seen the impact of this on our school community. Covid does not discriminate and the high transmission of the new strain, hit us much harder in December, than it did throughout last year, with infection rates in school being linked to those in the wider community. This resulted in pupil and staff absences and our curriculum teams did their utmost and succeeded in continuing to deliver a high quality of Education.

## Attendance:

Thank you parents/carers for communicating that you do not wish for your child to return at this time. Reasons by parents have included that their child is medically vulnerable, that it is safest at the moment for their child to remain at home in order to minimise contact with other children and to keep their families safe during this period of national lockdown. A high percentage of pupils are remaining at home at this time completing their learning remotely. We also have a much higher proportion of staff who have been unwell, who are isolating or who are vulnerable themselves, which is having an impact on the operations of the school, but it has been possible to support mainly the key worker parents who have requested that their child attends. As stated by the Government, it is of particular importance that we try to reduce contacts with people in other households, in order to reduce risk in our community.

## Messages:

Thank you for the many messages of support and thanks, particularly after Ian's interview and 'voice' regarding SEN Pupils and the Special Schools sector on Radio Kent, (despite the fact that he felt very unwell and had just learnt that morning that he had tested positive for Covid). This continues to be an incredibly challenging time and the comradery of the parents/carers and the dedication and commitment of colleagues at Glebe, encourages us to carry on. In Ian's absence, please do contact me if you need, on the email addresses at the end of the letter.

## Remote learning & Online Communication:

The comprehensive online Home Learning Zone, is up and running again for all year groups and The Den and Sixth Form Provisions on the website, under the Curriculum tab, (see Year Group and Provision). If you have any questions, please do ask your child's Form Tutor or Head of Year. If you do not have access to IT or wifi at this time, we can arrange for a hard copy of work to be sent to you. Please do return this by email or in the post for marking. A reminder that a message was sent out for free data for families – please let us know so that we can help.

Our staff are working hard to provide our enhanced remote learning offer. This is to include online meetings and interactions with teachers and classmates to support the well-being of pupils and to prevent them from feeling isolated (not compulsory). We are currently setting up "My Teams" which can be accessed on a mobile app, on a laptop or tablet (download from google). We are also planning for a weekly "Tutor Time" chat/activities session and also to



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deliver some online lessons. As I hope you will appreciate, we need to consider strict safeguarding procedures. Further details will follow in the next week or so. In the meantime, Tutors/Heads of Year and the Pastoral Team will be in touch next week with telephone calls, as was the case in the previous lockdown last year.

## Year 11 Examinations & Laptops:

The Government announced this week that formal examinations will not take place this year and that teacher assessments are to be submitted. When we have further guidance from Government, we will share this with parents. Pupil work sent/given in to the teachers will be assessed and grades submitted towards the end of the year. We have been allocated some laptops by the Government. These will be prioritised for those pupils in Year 11 who do not have a laptop, however pupils must submit work weekly and should only be used by Glebe pupils. We do not know when the laptops will arrive. Once they do, we will of course let you know and arrange collection (a contract will need to be signed as laptops will remain the property of the school).

## Testing:

Following the Government announcement as we broke up for Xmas, staff have been working hard during the holidays to set up testing for asymptomatic students and staff. Equipment has been ordered and the testing room is being set up. Testing kits have also been delivered to the school, staff are being recruited and training continues to take place. We will be asking all parents to consent for their child to be tested. This is not compulsory and we recognise that there may be some pupils who will not want to do this. The Pilot Testing is to commence soon for those attending once consent has been given.

**Free School Meal Vouchers:** Please check emails for a Free School Meal Electronic voucher, (not all vouchers have been accessed).

**Children of Critical Workers & Vulnerable Pupils:** Pupils who are particularly vulnerable and the children of critical workers, may request to attend school. Critical worker definitions are:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

To request attendance, please complete the attached form and return it to: [pastoral2@glebe.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral2@glebe.bromley.sch.uk)

## Please note:

- Children who are clinically/medically vulnerable should not attend school.
- Children who are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms, or whose household members have symptoms (even if mild) must not attend site, until a test has been arranged and is negative.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We miss our school community and want to support pupils and families as much as we can. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact [pastoral2@glebe.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:pastoral2@glebe.bromley.sch.uk) or [admin@glebe.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@glebe.bromley.sch.uk). Please do stay safe.

Best wishes,

Marianne Rodger-Weetman, Senior Deputy Headteacher

