



Brampton Village Primary School

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Newsletter



Spring Term 2021

22nd January Letter 3

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Headteacher's notes...

Another week has passed – I hope you have kept well and you are now in more of a routine with things at home. There continue to be challenges but we are also getting hopeful of a return to 'normality' at some point. Please bear with us if things do not always work first time as we are all in unfamiliar circumstances.

Working together is so important and this is the theme of an Assembly that you can watch by going to the school website and clicking on the Coronavirus tab at the top. Many of you are contacting us through closure@brampton.cambs.sch.uk – please continue to email us if you have questions or need any support. Please remember about getting the balance of 'work and play' right at home with all the pressures everyone is facing as it is important to look after your well-being and that of your families at this time.

COVID-19 mass asymptomatic testing for staff.

Primary schools have been invited to start a programme of mass asymptomatic testing from Monday 25th January. Every primary school in England will have access to rapid coronavirus testing (known as 'lateral flow tests') to help keep staff and children as safe as possible and in education.

Simple and quick tests using antigen Lateral Flow Devices (LFD), enable the rapid testing of staff, from their own home, without the need for a laboratory. We are positive about the asymptomatic testing of staff and its potential to reduce the spread of the virus, particularly since it is widely recognised that up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms and could be carrying it unknowingly.

Staff will be offered two 'lateral flow tests' a week, starting sometime next week, on an on-going weekly basis. A positive test may well mean that a bubble in school has to close but we will try and give as much notice as we can. We are very mindful that there are currently some debates in the mainstream media about the accuracy of these tests, but we are working to guidance from the DfE and Local Authority.

If any parent would like further information about this programme, please contact the school office in the first instance. We are only now receiving the training for this testing and we are working hard to ensure risk assessments are in place before we start.

Critical Worker/Vulnerable Children Bookings

Bookings for spaces for the week commencing 1st February, will open at 11.00am tomorrow, Saturday morning, and will close at 3.00pm on Monday 25th January. When booking you will receive an email confirmation – this is just to confirm that your booking request has been received and it does not guarantee a place. Once bookings close we will go through all of the requests and allocate places.

STAY HOME > PROTECT THE NHS > SAVE LIVES

Please use <https://bramptonvillage.parentseveningsystem.co.uk> for bookings.

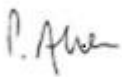
Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be. The Local Authority is clear that the offer for children of critical workers or those who are vulnerable is an offer, not an automatic guarantee. Everything will be guided by our risk assessment as we consider staff availability, the need to deliver remote learning to pupils at home, the need to ensure as much social distancing as possible, including avoiding overcrowding of the school, and maintaining the bubble structures which have protected our children and staff to date.

During this very difficult phase of the pandemic, the number of children attending school should be as low as possible in order to have the maximum effect on lowering transmission.

We absolutely understand that families are worried about being able to work but these are extraordinary times and we are all having to make some very difficult decisions and sacrifices. Please do not take up the space if you do not need it as it may be needed urgently by someone else. If you are able to make alternative arrangements please let us know so that places can be offered to other families.

We continue to receive messages of support which are much appreciated and keep us going so thank you for those.

Take care and stay safe.



Mr Peter Allen
Headteacher