

12<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

### Class Bubble Closures

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter. I am aware that some people are sharing information which simply is not true. The health and wellbeing of the children, staff and families is of the highest importance at this most difficult time. Our teachers and support staff take their professional responsibilities very seriously, adhering to our Covid risk assessment, which can be found on the school website. Despite a robust risk assessment being in place, we cannot guarantee that no one within the school community will catch the virus. However I feel it necessary to share the facts that led to the closure of four class bubbles yesterday.

One member of staff tested positive despite having no symptoms. They and all the other staff follow the risk assessments we have in place, we have been told by Track and Trace that our systems are very strong. The member of staff does not have a specific classroom and I would like to explain why.

In all schools, teachers are allowed time out of class each week to plan and prepare lessons (it is a legal requirement). We use our own specialist teachers whilst the class teacher is out, who continue to teach the children new things in their specialist curriculum area. We have recently introduced our music specialist and language specialist into Tonge Moor and the children love these lessons. So, a very small number of staff work in more than one class (and have done all year) whilst keeping to strict guidelines. The class teachers and teaching assistants remain with their class bubble.

I would like to make it clear that there are no opportunities for staff to socialise and there are restrictions on numbers allowed in communal spaces such as staff toilets and the staffroom. All staff are required to wear a face covering when not in the classroom.

The school have had no known spread of virus cases to date. Anyone who has tested positive has not spread the virus to any other person in school. I believe that some people are sharing that there have been multiple cases in a class bubble, this is simply not true.

After going to school as a child myself at Tonge Moor and being part of the community, I am thankful for all the support and kind words from many of you during these difficult times, my staff are really grateful too. Please, if you have any concerns or wish for any further information in the future, contact me and I will do my very best to help you.

I wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas,

Yours sincerely,  
N. Whittaker  
Head of School

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