



Marsh Hill, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7EY
Tel: 0121 464 6136

Email: enquiry@pines.bham.sch.uk www.thepinesspecialschool.com

Headteacher: Miss Emma Pearce, B.Ed. (Hons), MEd, AdvDipEd

25th September 2020

Dear families.

Many thanks for your support and understanding this week as we had to close Bubble three, due to a positive case of COVID 19. We have since had another case confirmed, within the same Bubble and as we had already self-isolated the bubble we needed to take no further action. Both confirmed cases were pupils within the bubble but in different classes.

I just wanted to reassure you that in both cases the symptoms have been very mild and recovery has been rapid and the pupils are both happy and well.

Also, please be reassured that all of our measures in place are robust and have been verified by Public Health. As an additional precaution all of the classrooms in bubble 3 are undergoing additional cleaning before the Bubble reopens on the 5th October.

These measures are in place throughout the school and all staff are adhering to them, we are really careful that bubbles aren't mixing or crossing over and there is additional cleaning happening throughout the school day, concentrating on toilets and door handles and points of contact.

If we do have to close a Bubble we follow the guidance provided by the Government and obviously we only do so when there has been a confirmed case, it really is the last thing we want to do. We are continuing to look at how we provide home learning and will be responsive to change moving forward to ensure that it meets the needs of our learners.

We have been asked to remind families that you only need to book a test if there are symptoms present and not if you are self-isolating due to potentially having contact with a positive case. A negative test result during self-isolation cannot reduce the isolation period of 14 days.

The guidance can be tricky to navigate, if in any doubt please give school a call and we will try to help. The Covid Related Action sheet is also a useful document. Again, let school know if you would like another copy of this.

In other news, our new children have settled in so well! We are incredibly proud of the way in which they have made the transition into the Pines and have adapted to school life. In fact, all of our children are doing very well and are happy and settled in school. It really is a pleasure to see. The pupils accept the new routines in place and seem to feel safe and comfortable with them.



Birmingham Special Schools'
Co-operative Trust





THE PINES SCHOOL

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You may have seen on DOJO that Claire Mironik (the Auntie of one of our Year 5 pupils) raised a staggering £700 for us during lockdown, by running 10k. We are going to spend the money on buying more scooters for the playground as they are a firm favorite with our children. Thank you very much Claire, and well done.

As always, the staff at the Pines continue to do an amazing job. I have the privilege of being able to see the class stories on DOJO and I am sure you will agree there are some wonderful things happening in school (and at home) and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each member of staff for their hard work and ongoing commitment to the school, but most importantly to our pupils.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing support.

Many Thanks

Emma Pearce



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21st September 2020

Dear parent/carers,

It's been wonderful to see children back at school, learning and seeing their friends again. I know the past few months have been hard on all of us and I'd like to thank you for your continued support.

You will have seen some changes to the way your school operates so I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of why these are vital to the safe running of school; please remember that although many aspects of society have opened up again, although in a different way, the virus has not gone away.

While changes will vary from school to school, depending on such things as building layout and number of pupils, the differences you will notice could include:

- Staggered drop-off and collection at the start and end of the day to minimise the number of people at the school entrance.
- Children will be in 'bubbles' to reduce contact as much as possible, but allow them to learn and play with friends.
- If a child or staff member within a bubble shows symptoms or is infected then the bubble may need to isolate, but the school will communicate with parents if this happens.
- Asking children to wash their hands even more than usual, use hand sanitisers and follow any one-way systems while staying apart as much as possible.

I know some of these changes may be hard to get used to, and they may be frustrating, but they are entirely in order to keep all children, staff and parents safe.

I would therefore ask for your continued patience and consideration as we all do our best to help each other get through this difficult and unusual time.

School staff have been working so hard to ensure schools are a safe environment for learning and playing, so please do what you can to support them and each other and we will get through this.

Please also keep in mind that it is important that we all play our part in not going for a test unless we have one of the three covid symptoms, a temperature, new continuous cough or loss of sense of taste or smell, or if we are asked to by the NHS or public health teams.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak direct to your school – they are here to help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Varney', written over a horizontal line.

Dr Justin Varney

Director of Public Health
Birmingham City Council