



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Monday 16th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

School Closure until Tuesday 1st December 2020

It is with regret - and after much reflection and careful analysis – that we have taken the very difficult decision to close Joy Lane Primary School to all pupils until Tuesday 1st December 2020. This decision has been taken after full consultation with Public Health England (PHE) and the Department for Education (DfE), our Local Authority plus a review of our risk assessments. As we have already informed you, we have had to ask pupils in Year 6 and Oysters SRP to self-isolate due to confirmed Covid-19 cases within these bubbles.

Here are the facts that have led to this difficult decision to close. This week we have:

- ✦ 40 staff absent, 7 with a positive test result and a further 3 awaiting test results
- ✦ 6 positive tests in our pupil population and a further 4 waiting for a test result
- ✦ We have been made aware of at least 7 positive cases in our parent/carer community and further 3 parents/carers awaiting results
- ✦ Inadequate staffing levels to maintain a safe environment for all

We are sure you are aware that the number of infections in Kent has recently dramatically risen in all districts across the county. Currently, it has been reported that the R-rate for Kent is amongst the highest in the country. Therefore, it is highly likely that more cases within our community will occur in the coming days. It is, unfortunately, now obvious that we do not have the capacity to open safely and to continue to provide quality education within school.

Since September the school has been preparing, in line with Government expectations, remote home learning lessons in case of such an eventuality. These are ready and in place for all year groups – we will contact you about these via Class Dojo. It is our belief, under these difficult circumstances, the pupils' education will be better served at home, following these lessons and knowing that they are safe, rather than being in school at this moment in time.

As a result of this difficult decision, all year groups should not return to school until **Tuesday 1st December 2020** and should access learning as directed via Class Dojo.

Family members of those who are required to self-isolate do not also need to self-isolate unless anyone in the family home shows symptoms, in which case everyone should self-isolate and organise a test as soon as possible.

Please see guidance on the link attached from the DfE in relation to the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme for your information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>

You may be eligible for support payments and you should ring the Self isolation service hub on 0203 743



Joy Lane Primary School
Joy Lane
Whitstable
Kent CT5 4LT

PHONE: 01227 261430
FAX: 01227 261572
E-MAIL: office@joylane.kent.sch.uk
WEBSITE: <http://www.joylane.kent.sch.uk>

6715. You will need the CTAS ID, which you can get from the person who has tested positive, along with the details of the people who have been identified as contacts. ***This support is available only if you have been personally contacted by Track and Trace.***

We would like to finish by saying that we have not come to this decision easily. We take our duty of care to the pupils and staff very seriously and we simply cannot see any other way forward.

Please do everything that you can to encourage your child to engage with the learning we are providing and we very much hope to welcome them back on Tuesday 1st December 2020. Please stay safe and we hope to see everyone again soon.

We will share further guidance with you as we receive it and will, as ever keep you informed.

Yours Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Graves'.

Chris Graves
Chair of Governors

DJ Hines

Debra Hines
Executive Headteacher