



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Oyster Bay Nursery&Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms D J Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

22nd October 2021

Coastal Alliance Headteachers' Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you aware our school is part of a group of schools in Herne Bay and Whitstable called the Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust (CACoT). We talk together regularly to support and help each other, which has been invaluable in the year and a half since the pandemic began.

Though we work together, we make the best decisions for our own schools and for the circumstances that we face, so we don't always do things the same way. However, sometimes we feel it is really important that we act together, as we did last year, when deciding that none of our schools would offer face to face tours because of the COVID-19 risk at that time, so you knew it wasn't one school being awkward.

This year, we have come together once again to make a plea that all parents ensure their children take a COVID-19 lateral flow test (Antigen) before they return after the half term break and only send them back into school if they (and ideally your family) have all tested negative.

We think that this will make a real difference in limiting some of the disruption and illness that have caused so many issues across our schools this last half term. We know that this is in place for all secondary children, but think it is just as important for primary school children to be tested before they return, especially now they can take tests which do not need to involve a throat swab, which though not perfect, are much more age appropriate.

Given the rising number of cases, the more parents who do this, the safer the schools will be in November. Hopefully we can then reduce the spread of the virus and keep as many as possible of the children well and in lessons as we enter what we anticipate being a difficult winter.

We don't often write to you as a group, saving it for when we think it is something really important. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for those of you who do make sure that your child has a negative lateral flow test before sending them to school after half term. Our first priority as ever, is keeping our whole school communities as safe and healthy as possible.

With our very best regards,

Headteachers of the Coastal Alliance Co-operative Trust