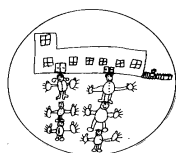
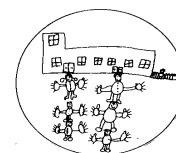


BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



# SLADEFIELD INFANT SCHOOL



SCHOOL  
MEMBER

HEADTEACHER  
MR R MEADOWS  
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS  
MR A TANNER



BAMVILLE ROAD  
WARD END  
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B8 2TJ



Artsmark  
Silver Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

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Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## **RE: School Update**

I am writing to you to keep you updated with the latest developments at school, especially linked to COVID-19.

Starting with the positives...

We are really pleased with how well the children in Key Stage 1 have adapted to the expectations in the classroom, and the way they have kept up with the changes that we have put into place to ensure that the children are safe and well at school. Standing on the gate daily, it is clear to see that the children are really enjoying being back at school, and this is definitely noticeable in classes also.

We have also been really pleased with how well you, as parents/carers, have adapted to the drop-off and pick-up procedures we have introduced. We have seen a real improvement in you being on time (but not too early), and maintaining social distancing when dropping off and collecting your child. Thank you for your perseverance over the past few weeks – I think you too can see that it is now successfully being followed by most people.

**MAY I KINDLY ASK THAT PARENTS/CARERS DO CONTINUE TO SOCIALLY DISTANCE WHEN DROPPING OFF OR COLLECTING THEIR CHILD – IDEALLY MAINTAINING A DISTANCE OF TWO METRES IF POSSIBLE.**

Also, may we ask you to refrain from hugging/touching a close friend in the playground. As staff, we are a very close community, but we have had to learn to minimise contact. We ask our parents to respectfully do the same.

Finally, we are REALLY happy to welcome our new Reception children into school this week. It's been an absolute joy to see them, and their parents/carers, and they have already shown that they are adapting well in their new surroundings!

Unfortunately, we have been affected quite significantly by COVID-19. We have had a number of positive cases amongst pupils and staff over the last few weeks which has led to every Key Stage 1 class – except for Class 1 – having to self-isolate, even if just for 1 day (in the case of Class 3). Sadly, we can not predict how COVID-19 might affect people, and these cases have meant we have no alternative but to close class bubbles, following advice from Public Health England.

Following each positive result being confirmed with us, I have been in contact with Public Health England who offer us advice and guidance as to what our steps should be. At each stage, we have been reassured that the closure of individual class bubbles is the correct method to take, and that there is no need to close the school as a whole.

I can assure you that the class bubbles have been maintained at all times, including at lunch times and break times. The children do have breaks and lunches at the same time as their peers in their Year Group, but each class is having their lunch in their own classrooms, and also have their own bubble space in the playground, meaning that they are separate at all times. It is because of this that we have not had to close whole year-group bubbles which has been the case at other schools.

I can also assure you that we have increased our cleaning regime since the new Government guidelines have been introduced. Our Site Manager is on-site across the whole school day, carrying out ongoing cleaning, specifically of touch points and regularly used areas of the school, and we have also employed an additional cleaner to ensure that an increased cleaning schedule is maintained. In addition, we have purchased a fogging machine, and this has meant that the whole school is deep cleaned, and this will continue to be the case.

Our staff are also being very careful to ensure that they are following the guidance in terms of social distancing and in the wearing of PPE. The guidance specifically indicates that staff, when working with young children, should not wear masks. However, staff are encouraged to wear visers at times when they can not maintain a distance of 2 metres from others for a period of longer than 15 minutes. They are also wearing visers when working more closely with individual children or small groups. Due to the free-flow opportunities in our EYFS Unit, the staff will be wearing visers and other PPE for large periods of the day.

I hope that you know how important we take maintaining the health and safety of everyone in the school, at all times, and especially at a time when there is a worldwide pandemic.

I also hope that you know that you should feel comfortable to contact the school if you have any concerns about what is happening at Sladefield and a member of the team will be happy to discuss this further with you.

As always, please stay safe and look after yourselves.

Kind regards

Mr R Meadows

Head Teacher