



Ash Grove Primary Academy

Ash Grove, South Elmsall, Pontefract, West Yorkshire, WF9 2TF

01977 640625

Email: ag-enquiries@ipmat.co.uk

Website: www.ashgrovejandi.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Leah Charlesworth

22nd November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Full School Closure: Ash Grove

I am so sorry to break into your weekend again, but I have an urgent update for you all. As you know, in error, multiple members of staff were identified by Track and Trace as close contacts of the one positive case in Ash Grove. Over the course of the last week I have been liaising with NHS Contact Tracing to try to get those now correctly identified as not being close contacts released. Despite the acknowledgement that these staff were identified in error, I am sad to say that thus far I have had no update to say that those members of staff can return to work, and so we must continue to follow the law and isolate.

As you know, we were able to keep the school open to our Y2 bubble. This is in part because we had enough staff to maintain the ratio required, but also because we were able to make arrangements for Sally Henshall, a headteacher from a neighbouring school, to work at Ash Grove. Mrs Henshall provided leadership cover and also the required 'Designated Safeguarding Lead' that the school must have on site to be open.

On Friday, Mrs Henshall received information that she had a positive case at her own school. So, understandably, Mrs Henshall is required to return to her school from Monday. The Trust Leadership and I have spent considerable time, trying to find another solution for Ash Grove, so that we could maintain a leader and Designated Safeguarding Lead on site. Sadly, we cannot find a solution.

The outcome of this is that we now must close the Y2 bubble, as we cannot maintain the required staffing on the school site. I must say I am really disappointed to have to do this - but we have no option. As a school we have to abide by the legal requirements placed on us by Track and Trace, and also by the legal requirements of staffing to open.

So, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week, all bubbles will be working from home. We have had confirmation that on Thursday 26th November, all isolating staff will be able to return to school. This will mean that we can reopen the school to all pupils from YN to Y6 on Thursday 26th November.

We do look forward to welcoming the children back to school, but we are very aware of the difficulties this situation will have caused families. It has been a period of immense frustration for all staff concerned.

We would all like to thank every family for their patience at this time and their understanding in these very difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely

Leah Charlesworth
Executive Headteacher



DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADERS
Steven Walker Gemma Williams
Sarah Johnson