**ANGLESEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Head Teacher – Mr Paul Doddridge

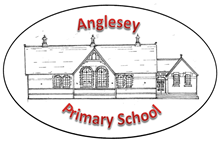
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Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parent,

Following several bubble closures due to positive COVID-19 cases in the last few days, I thought it was important to write and provide some clarity, share ways forward and help build further support between school and home.

I have spoken to several of you over the last few days on the gate when we have closed bubbles. There is a frustration within the school and wider community around continued disruption to education. I could not agree more. For us as educators, there is nothing more disruptive to a child’s education than having to spend 2 weeks self-isolating at home and not at school. Parents have been very supportive and understanding but we share your frustration completely. Therefore, we hope you will support us in reinforcing the following messages:

* If you have symptoms of Coronavirus (continuous cough, temperate, loss of sense of small or taste), you must have a test and stay at home until results are received. The same rules apply to your child. **Please do not bring your children into school if they have symptoms or are waiting for results as this is what has caused most of our bubble closures.**
* If someone in your household tests positive for Coronavirus, **you must keep your child at home for 14 days along with the rest of your household.** This has also caused several bubble closures.
* If you have a child at home because their Year Group has been sent home, **please continue to bring other siblings to school** to ensure their education is not disrupted further.

I am very proud of the home learning provision we have managed to supply since the very start of lockdown in March – teachers have worked incredibly hard and creatively to provide quality materials as well a telephone calls to keep in touch with pupils and help them focus on completing work. We have had dozens of compliments from parents for this approach and I thank you for those. However, there will never be a substitute for children in class being taught by a teacher.

I have had some feedback from parents supporting our decision to close but asking whether we could have ‘class bubbles’ rather than ‘year group bubbles’ to minimise the impact on education. We have explored this, however this is a challenge for several reasons. All children in a Year Group share toilets, sinks and playtimes which makes cross-contamination likely and therefore not safe for children to be classed as separate bubbles. Lunchtimes would also present an enormous challenge in terms of children having little or no opportunity to play outside due it being impossible to space out nearly 400 children in KS2 (for example) to maintain social distancing.

I thank you for your continued support during this difficult time and send best wishes to you and your family.

P Doddridge

Head Teacher