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“Children don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

29th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, all schools have been told by the UK Government that they must ensure “good ventilation” for all classrooms in order to reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus. (I have copied the guidance below, for your interest.)

**Please be assured that the safety of children and adults
in school remains our number one priority.**

That said, we realise that opening windows and doors when the weather is cooler means that classrooms will be more difficult (and expensive) to heat. I have already raised this issue with David Warburton (our local MP) and with the County Council.

The good news is that Key Stage 2 classrooms and the Nursery have underfloor heating, and our Amber, Ruby, Diamond and Pearl classrooms all have powerful radiators. (We also have classroom thermometers so we can keep track of room temperatures.) But, it obviously makes sense for children to wear tracksuit bottoms on their PE days and to bring a warm winter coat, hat, scarf and gloves to school. Children should also wear extra layers under their school tops, i.e. a vest and/or T-shirt.

**We believe that the only responsible course of action is to
follow the expectations of the Department for Education
and guidance from the Health and Safety Executive at this time.**

The Government’s advice regarding ventilation in classrooms during the COVID-19 pandemic is as follows:

Playing indoors

*If indoors, use a room with as much space as possible, for example, larger rooms; rooms with high ceilings are expected to enable dilution of aerosol transmission. If playing indoors, limiting the numbers to account for ventilation of the space and the ability to social distance. **It is important to ensure good ventilation.***

Advice on this can be found in Health and Safety Executive guidance on air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus outbreak:

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/equipment-and-machinery/air-conditioning-and-ventilation.htm>

Air conditioning and ventilation during the coronavirus pandemic

This guidance is based on the latest information and may be updated as and when new information becomes available.

General ventilation

Employers must, by law, ensure an adequate supply of fresh air in the workplace and this has not changed.

Good ventilation can help reduce the risk of spreading coronavirus, so focus on improving general ventilation, preferably through fresh air or mechanical systems.

Where possible, consider ways to maintain and increase the supply of fresh air, for example, by opening windows and doors (unless fire doors).

Also consider if you can improve the circulation of outside air and prevent pockets of stagnant air in occupied spaces. You can do this by using ceiling fans or desk fans, for example, provided good ventilation is maintained.

The risk of transmission through the use of ceiling and desk fans is extremely low providing there is good ventilation in the area it is being used, preferably provided by fresh air.

As headteacher, I know that COVID-19 has changed the way we work in school, just as it has changed the way we shop, the places we can travel to and the number of people we can see.

These are difficult times, which require flexibility and adaptability. We can no longer do everything we want, whenever we want to do it.

We will continue to follow Government advice
and thank you for your support at this difficult time.

For now, we will have to wrap up warm so that we can
ensure good ventilation and stop the virus from spreading.

Yours faithfully,



Rupert Kaye
Headteacher