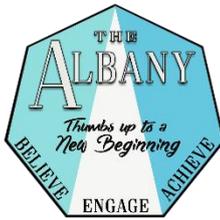


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Head Teacher: Jane Reason

13 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Educational Provision during the Current Lockdown

As we near the end of the mass Covid-19 rapid testing programme at the start of term, we are able to plan the structure of our educational offer for the remainder of this half-term.

Lateral Flow Device Covid-19 Testing

I would like to thank all parents/ carers and students for their support in enabling the testing to take place so smoothly, with almost 100% of on-site students engaging in the testing. In addition, we have tested all staff, who will continue to be tested weekly. The current guidance from the Department for Education does not support weekly testing for students.

However, it is important to note that these tests will, on average, detect one person in every two who is asymptomatic with Covid-19 [one in three people who have Covid-19 are asymptomatic]. As such, it remains critical that we all follow the safety steps identified in our risk assessment, including social distancing, no sharing of personal items (including food and cigarettes) and the wearing of facemasks in all common areas within the school.

School Closure in the Event of a Positive Test

We have been advised by Stuart Keeble (Director of Public Health in Suffolk) not to use 7 day testing of close contacts of those with Covid-19 at this time. Therefore, it is important to share with parents that, should we have a positive Covid-19 test within our community in school, the school would close to all face-to-face education and all members of the community who had been in school at the same time as this individual would be required to self-isolate at home. All learning would then be online and via work packs.

Risk Management and Following Guidance

Most children who contract Covid-19 will be asymptomatic or have only a mild illness. However, there are many adults working in school, and families around each child; some of whom are clinically vulnerable or extremely vulnerable and could be extremely ill (or die) should they catch it. The school community relies on all those within it to abide by the current lockdown requirements alongside our own risk management plans in school to try to keep our community safe. Whilst we appreciate the challenges that social isolation causes many of us, it is particularly difficult for teenage children, who need their friends around them. It is therefore important that we all work together to encourage close adherence to lockdown guidance and to 'hands, face, space' to keep us all safe.

Our Educational Offer

Thank you to all parents/carers who have responded to our questionnaire regarding your child's education during Lockdown. If you have not yet replied, the link is:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2dKN4rjxDkmA_B0Z4_nGkKurdi45C7BAkzFpsroFY4hUQ0wxMTFLTFVFTFZFMIZGUFBPT0pSV1FGWS4u



This survey allows us to collect your views on where and how your child learns over the next few weeks. It is important to us to ensure that parents and carers are involved in co-constructing the educational offer for their child. This survey allows us to record and respond to your views. Of particular importance is whether you want your child in school, at home, or a mixture of the two. In addition, we need to know your child's access to technology to learn from home, their capacity to access remote learning, and preferences for work packs.

Most children will have a blended offer, mixing face-to-face (on site of community offer), educational placements (e.g. Greenlight Trust, Wood Monkey), on-line learning and paper based work packs, supported by phone calls and doorstep visits. Your child's class teacher will share the details of your child's timetable with you.

We are not yet in a position to offer every child whose parent wants a face-to-face offer in school a full time provision in school. This is due to the reduced capacity in our classrooms due to the transmission reduction steps we have taken, and to a number of the staff being unwell and not in school. We will continue to keep this offer under review whilst working with parents and carers to ensure the educational offer is appropriate for each child.

Please contact me if you have concerns or questions. We are always happy to receive feedback from families.

Yours sincerely



Jane Reason
Headteacher

