

BURLINGTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs P Utting

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www.burlingtonj.kingston.sch.uk

Burlington Road · New Malden · Surrey · KT3 4LT

Monday 10th January.

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all managed to have a relaxing and happy time over the festive period. It is lovely to see the children returning to school having had a well-deserved break.

We have been making plans to keep the school running successfully this term during a period of potentially high absence rates and isolation periods due to COVID. Currently we have one member of staff isolating.

We are hoping that school will continue to operate as we are now and we will manage absences in our normal way. However, during the next few weeks, if we are experiencing high levels of absence you may notice some of the following:

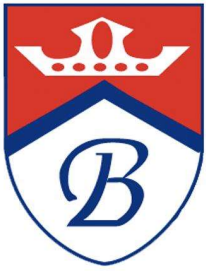
1. Different teachers in school may cover classes. Pupils will be taught by a teacher but it may not be their own class teacher.
2. We may use different approaches to cover PPA (planning, preparation and assessment) time for teachers. This could be having additional sport time, break time, golden time or watching a short film or educational video.
3. Children could be engaged in 'virtual' lessons in their classroom using online resources with lessons being delivered by staff isolating at home. Pupils will be supervised by other school staff in the classroom if this were to take place.
4. There may be times when we would combine classes and use our larger spaces to teach, such as the halls.
5. We may also move back into temporary bubbles if the rates in school are high.

One of the very last resorts may be a very brief return to home learning if the staff absence rates are particularly high. This is something none of us want to return to,

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but it could be something we consider if we are not able to safely look after pupils in school.

Please also remember that a school needs a catering, mid-day supervision and cleaning team to safely remain open, so again, we may have to consider various options should other members of the school staff team have high rates of absence.

In the meantime, lateral flow testing of everyone in school does help. Please continue to encourage children to complete the lateral flow tests. The new tests are much better, just needing the nose swabs, which children find a little easier. All school staff are testing every Monday and Thursday before coming into school.

Thank you for your ongoing support at this time. It is nearly 2 years since Covid first impacted our lives and I don't think any of us thought we would still have to manage life with Covid in 2022. We have learnt so much since March 2020 about staying safe and living with the virus, and continue to do all we can to ensure your child has the very best education at our school.

With thanks and best wishes,

Mrs Pip Utting
Headteacher

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