



HILLSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lords Lane, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth,
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Dear Parents/Carers,

In-school places

We are really grateful for your support in helping to keep numbers in school as low as possible at the present time. It is vital that we try to reduce the number of contacts within the community, to enable us to bring down infection rates and to keep everyone as safe as possible. I would therefore like to reinforce the message again, to please only take up a place in school if you really need to.

We appreciate that the majority of parents are doing this, but we now have over a third of the children in school (Key-workers/Vulnerable), which is making it very difficult to limit contact in some classes.

Mixing outside of school

We are aware that some children are continuing to visit each other's houses during this National Lockdown. While I appreciate that things are incredibly challenging, unless it is your support bubble, households **should not** be mixing indoors to limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Infection rates remain alarmingly high for this area and we must do all we can to reduce the strain on the NHS and to keep everyone safe, including our children and staff.

School staff Covid testing

You may have heard in the media that Covid-testing for primary school staff has begun this week. The purpose of this is to add an extra layer of safety to schools, by reducing the risk of transmission of Covid-19 through asymptomatic adults. Having this testing programme in place does not mean there will be any relaxation of the other safety measures in place for those in school.

Should a member of staff test positive, we will obviously need to close the bubble in which that staff member works, so that all contacts can immediately begin a 10-day isolation period.

We will contact parents of any child affected by a bubble closure on the evening before the bubble needs to close. Any such email will be sent by 7pm, so please check your emails daily in case there is a closure message from school.

Half-term

We also just wanted to inform you that there is no expectation for schools to remain open and to provide childcare over the half-term break, so you will need to make alternative arrangements on the week of the 15th to 19th February. There is however wider government support in place to help families and children outside of term-time, through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#).

Thank you

Finally, we just wanted to thank you once again for the amazing job that you are doing with your children! The engagement, quality and quantity of work has been excellent. We really do appreciate what a struggle it can be, particularly for those of you who have larger families or are having to work from home, but try to stay positive and remember that your best is good enough!

Take care and stay safe.

Simon Minter
Head Teacher