



16th July 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As we are quickly approaching the end of the year, and as I will be starting my maternity leave on Monday I wanted to get in contact with you to share some information.

Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents who returned the school improvement survey. The feedback from parents was extremely valuable. It was wonderful to see how safe parents and pupils have felt as well as how supported they have felt with work packs, online lessons, zoom calls, the extended school day and parent phone calls. Suggestions for improvement have also been of great use to us and we completely agree with the suggestions of parents, for example we also would like to see an increase in after school clubs in the next academic year following a change in school guidance. The full survey results are available on the website.

I am sure that many of you will be aware of the significant number of bubble closures that have taken place over the last week or so. Like you, we are so disappointed that this is the case especially so close to the end of school and as restrictions in other aspects of life are lifting. Having attended fortnightly briefings with public health and other headteachers across Bolton it would seem that we are now facing the same challenge that many schools in other areas of Bolton have been experiencing for some time. We are in many ways lucky that we have managed to avoid this level of disruption up to this point. I know that in some schools at times there have been no classes left in school.

These closures are particularly upsetting for pupils who cannot return to school before September. We understand this and it is certainly not what we want as a school either. However, despite the change in restrictions from Monday, schools are still bound to follow the advice and isolation rules that have been in place throughout. I know that some parents have raised concerns about some staff members who have not been identified as close contacts where bubbles have closed. I would like to reassure these parents that however frustrating this may seem the presence of any staff in school is completely in line with the guidance on identifying close contacts and that in the event of any bubble closure contact is made with the local authority Covid team in order to identify contacts and notify them of the details of the closure. The process for identifying contacts is thorough and detailed and is based upon a number of factors including seating plans in class, the lessons taught that day, the last contact with the positive case and the staff in the classroom at different points of the day. Naturally, pupils are not able to distance from each other in the same way that adults can.

In what again has been such a challenging time for families as well as school I would like to thank you all for your support. The way staff, families and pupils have adapted to change and supported each other has been fantastic to see and just once again shows what a fantastic school family we have here at Red Lane. Staff are looking forward to the new academic year in the hope that life in school for pupils will be more settled and much more in keeping with what we know and love.

In the meantime, I wish all of our pupils and families an enjoyable and safe summer.

**Mrs Driver**  
**Head of School**