



**Mrs S Bridger**  
Headteacher

**Mr A J Reese**  
Chief Executive Officer

157 Walderslade Road,  
Chatham,  
Kent, ME5 0LP

Tel: 01634 861593  
Email: [office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@greenacre.medway.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.sflt.org.uk](http://www.sflt.org.uk)

5 October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers

As you are probably aware from the press and social media, increasing numbers of pupils are being sent home by schools following positive COVID test results. Last week, 1500 schools throughout the country were only partially open.

After just over one month of schooling, our Trust has now had two positive cases – one at Chantry Community Academy two weeks ago and a second at Walderslade Girls' School last week. Following this second case, a number of parents and members of staff pointed out that the decisions taken in both instances did not match what our risk assessments were outlining. We thought therefore it would be useful for parents to understand the procedure once a test comes back positive.

Despite what we are led to believe by the press, in both our cases Public Health England were immediately obtainable and discussed with senior staff a long checklist. The movements around school of the affected people are studied and also discussed with Public Health England. Following long deliberations, Public Health England strongly advise a course of action irrespective of what the risk assessment is saying which frankly one would be foolish to ignore.

Our original risk assessments suggested that our schools would be closed during 72 hours for a deep clean. At Chantry as the infected member of staff only operated within the Year 2 bubble, only Year 2 and Year 2 staff were sent home to isolate for 14 days. At WGS, the infected pupil had already been isolating for 7 days when the positive test result was established and tracking her last days in school showed that at worst, only her class needed to be isolated and then for only 7 days. In both instances, Public Health England was clear that our risk assessment was excessive. We have now updated for these all of our schools.

A Government agency – Health and Safety Executive – has been charged with contacting schools throughout the country regarding the safety precautions which are being taken. Apart from Greenacre, all of our schools have now been contacted and the agency is happy with our procedures. Our health and safety team were very influential in preparing schools for these phone checks as was the Office Supervisor at Warren Wood who was contacted first.

Parents will have seen in our primary schools that members of staff are now wearing masks when they come out on to the playground. This is because understandably as the numbers of infections grows locally, they are becoming more nervous of close contact. It would be great if parents, in addition to social distancing on the playground, could also wear masks so that the school community is protecting itself as well as it is able to do so.

Finally, something which arose out of the discussions with Public Health England, if somebody in the household displays one of the COVID symptoms – fever, dry cough, loss of sense of taste or smell – it would be ideal if all of the household isolated until the results of a test are known.

We are sorry that this letter is a little more sombre than we would like. We just want the best for everyone.

Nikki King OBE









