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26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure you will all be aware Covid infection rates are again increasing in this area; Surrey Heath positive test results have increased 26.8% week on week, up to yesterday 25<sup>th</sup> November and remains amongst the highest in Surrey and the country as a whole.

Our priority, as a school, is to keep your children and our staff as safe we are able to. I am aware that some parents are frustrated at the policies and procedures that we have in place to protect children and staff. These procedures, based on extensive risk assessment, have always been designed to protect children, staff and you as parents and carers and we will continue to act in the best interests of the everyone by prioritising health and safety.

We have received new guidance today from the Director of Public Health at Surrey County Council, which we have been asked to share with you. The guidance states:

*Covid rates are rising fast in Surrey and it is important that we do everything we can to get the rates down and protect ourselves and others from the virus. Therefore, **with immediate effect, the Surrey County Council Director of Public Health strongly recommends that face coverings should be worn in communal areas (excluding classrooms) for primary school staff and visitors, and secondary school pupils, staff and visitors, unless they are exempt or have a reasonable excuse. This is applicable to all Surrey schools, education settings and further education settings for the remainder of the Autumn term.***

I would therefore ask you, in support of our culture of vigilance at Bagshot Infant School, to please bear with us and adhere to the procedures we have in place. They are in place to protect your children and you.

We want the children to have a special Christmas and it saddens us all that we are not able to open our doors to you as we have in the past. I can guarantee that the whole staff are working tirelessly to ensure this happens, but in a way that maintains the integrity of our Covid-protective measures and hopefully means they are able to enjoy a healthy and safe Christmas with you. Full details of the Christmas events we have planned are included in a separate e-mail to you all.

Yours sincerely

Miss K Aldred

Headteacher