

Headlines

13th November 2020



Dear Parents,

It has been a very difficult week and a bit at Ongar. Late Thursday evening we had our first confirmed case of COVID-19, an adult who works in Chestnut Reception Class. We immediately stopped the children and adults associated with that class from coming into school. On Friday Public Health England confirmed this was absolutely the right thing to do. On Monday another adult in Chestnut class tested positive. As they had not been in school since the Thursday we took no other action but advised Chestnuts to return on the 19th. This week 2 children in Chestnuts have tested positive and a child in year 1. Because none of these children have been in school for either 2 days before they were poorly or while they had symptoms PHE have told me I need to take no further action. The children are bouncing back quickly from their high temperatures and the adults are recovering more slowly. So far it seems we have contained our current outbreak but inevitably there will be other cases. Unless I have to close a class I will not be reporting every positive test. However, Mrs Reardon and I are aware of the physically vulnerable children in each class. We will contact their parents individually if needed.

A local secondary school has almost had to shut completely and other primary schools have shut year groups and key stages. It is really important that all of us:

- Follow the Lockdown 2 rules and don't mix households
- Follow the isolation rules – 10 days from onset of symptoms (or positive test if no symptoms) and 14 days from contact with person with symptoms.
- Keep children off school if they show any of the signs of Covid infection (high temperature, persistent dry cough, loss of taste and smell).

I absolutely understand everyone's heightened anxiety and worry. The well-being of children and staff are uppermost in my mind at all times and I am following guidance and advice and trying to make measured, transparent and quick decisions.

Chestnut class children who have NOT been infected can return on the 19th November (this is 14 days since they were in contact with someone who tested positive). Individuals can return to school 10 days after they showed symptoms as long as they do not have a high temperature (the cough and loss of taste and smell can hang around for a couple of weeks but the person will not be contagious).

Thank you to everyone for your support. Don't hesitate to contact 119 if you need more advice around Covid-19.

I hope everyone manages to enjoy the weekend. Mrs Good

Year 3 have been busy writing poems for Amber. Here are some extracts:

Tiny Amber, our school pal
Sleeping, sniffing, yapping too.
Sort as a cloud.

Aimee

Fluffy Amber, our school friend,
Amber, our golden treasure
Cute as a kitten
Sleepy as a sloth.

Poppy

Cute Amber, our cuddly friend
A little fluff ball walking along
Wiggles like a little worm
As soft as lambs wool, our baby Amber.

Rosie

Adorable Amber, we love you
Amber chews all her toys,
She nibbles all our fingertips
Amber goes round making trouble
I can see Amber's heart inside.

Harry

Individual photos were taken of children this week and they are now available on line. Follow the directions in the letter you received.

We are hoping the photographer can come back and take photos of Chestnuts and anyone else who missed the day.

Youth Sports Trust Sport Club

The Youth Sport Trust are setting up a virtual / online after-school sport club. This will run every weekday from 5pm for 30 minutes starting on 16th November and running until the 18th December. There are different themes each day and will be led by different athlete mentors with the aim of developing skills and having FUN! The link is

<https://www.youthsporttrust.org/after-schoolsportclub>