Weekly Newsletter

Wednesday 5th January 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a brand new term - we hope you all had a lovely, relaxing Christmas and wish you all the very best for 2022. We were very glad to be able to welcome the children back this term - if you remember, last January began with a last-minute lockdown so we are relieved not to be talking to you all on Zoom!

I'm sorry to have to start yet another newsletter with Covid advice and information, but as the guidance is changing constantly, I wanted to make sure I had sent you my most up-to date information. Please remember that our Covid risk assessment, remote learning policy and learning ideas for the first few days of isolation are all on our website under the Covid-19 tab. Please also feel free to phone or email if ever you are unsure of the guidance - we will try our best to help.

As ever, all the best from all of us to all of you, Lucy Overton

Covid-19 Updates

If you have had a positive lateral flow test, you are allowed to go to a test site to have a PCR test done. It may be a good idea to get the whole family done at the same time because, if you have to isolate following a positive PCR Covid test, there are only a few circumstances, listed below, in which you are allowed to leave your house. These are -

(i)to seek medical assistance, where this is required urgently or on the advice of a registered medical practitioner, including to access services from dentists, opticians, audiologists, chiropodists, chiropractors, osteopaths and other medical or health practitioners, or services relating to mental health,

(ii)to access veterinary services, where this is required urgently or on the advice of a veterinary surgeon,

(iii)to fulfil a legal obligation, including attending court or satisfying bail conditions, or participating in legal proceedings,

(iv)to avoid a risk of harm,

(v)to attend a funeral of a close family member,

(vi)to obtain basic necessities, such as food and medical supplies for those in the same household (including any pets or animals in the household) where it is not possible to obtain these provisions in any other manner,

(vii)to access critical public services, including social services, and services provided to victims (such as victims of crime),

(viii)to move to a different place where it becomes impracticable to remain at the address at which they are.

If you are unable to get children to school during your period of isolation, we are able to authorize that absence and work will be sent home. Alternatively, in some cases we may be able to offer transport, please get in touch.

⇒ If a member of your household becomes ill with any of the recognised symptoms, they should have a PCR test. You can book one online here - https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test . If the test is positive, all household members should have a PCR test, whether they have symptoms or not. Anyone in receipt of a positive result must isolate, whether vaccinated or not. Isolation guidance is as follows -

Changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 -

Individuals may now take lateral flow tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The DfE has clarified that this approach applies to staff and students in schools and education settings to ensure that children can return to their education as soon as possible after isolation.

The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education or childcare setting from day 7.

As soon as you receive the second negative result, as long as it was 24 hours from the first one, then isolation can end. However, if you would like your child to return from Day 7, we will require evidence of two negative tests taken 24hrs apart on Days 6 and 7. This must be emailed to the school admin address prior to your child returning, thank you.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10-day period of self-isolation.

⇒ We continue to strongly suggest that all pupils carry out home lateral flow tests twice weekly. Tests can be accessed here - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/ We have been advised that this now applies to children who have received a positive test result within the last 90 days.

⇒ If a lateral flow test gives a positive result, the child should stay away from school until a PCR test can be carried out. Non-symptomatic siblings who received a negative lateral flow result are able to attend school until the PCR results are received, as long as they are not showing any signs of illness.

⇒ If the PCR test is positive, all members of the household must have a PCR test carried out - those who are negative may continue to attend school; those who are positive must remain at home in isolation. Full information on this can be found here - https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/

⇒ If we become aware of a child or staff member in school receiving a positive result (if they receive that result or become ill within 48hrs of their having been at school in contact with others) we will inform you of this. From now on, following Government and Local Authority advice, we will recommend that all pupils and adults in the same class access a PCR test. Children do not need to isolate while awaiting a test or the test results, but should isolate if the test is then positive. Also, at that point, all family members should also access a PCR test.

⇒ Adults are asked to wear masks in and around school, thank you

⇒ We are continuing to prioritise ventilation in the classrooms, so please ensure children are warmly dressed with plenty of layers on and that they bring warm coats, gloves, scarves etc. for playtime - once they get cold, it is very difficult to warm them up with all the windows open!

⇒ We are maintaining class bubbles as far as possible to limit the risk of transmission.

Diary Dates

New or changed dates in red

Tuesday 4th January - Non-Pupil / Staff Training Day

Wednesday 5th January - first day of term

Monday 10th January - Clubs begin

Friday 28th January - PTA Quiz Night

Monday 14th February - Friday 18th February - half term

Monday 21st February - Non-Pupil / Staff Training Day

Wednesday 23rd February - height, weight and vision checks for Y6 and Reception

Friday 18th March - Red Nose Day. Children are invited to wear red - red noses, red clothes, red hair ….

Friday 25th March - Clubs finish (Cookery, Ball Skills, Cricket, Choir, Dance, Film, Football)

Monday 28th March - additional club session for Woodland and Basketball clubs to replace session missed on 21st February

Friday 1st April - final day of Spring Term

Tuesday 19th April - first day of Summer Term

Monday 2nd May - Bank Holiday

Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June - Half Term

Wednesday 20th July - final day of Summer Term

Thursday 21st July - Non-Pupil / Staff Training Day

Friday 22nd July - Bank Holiday