



Weekly Newsletter – Friday, 3rd September 2021

Message from the Headteacher

Happy New School Year!

I wish you all well as this new school year begins.

It has been so good to have all of the children back at school and to catch up with the parent/carers too. The children – and staff – are very much enjoying being able to have a more relaxed approach to arrangements. Classes are mixing at play and lunchtime and we are gathering together in the hall for Assembly again. Having parents on the playground at the beginning of the school day also helps to bring back a sense of normality.

That being said, we do still have in place important measures to protect the school community and to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.

Good hand and respiratory (nose) hygiene continue to be very important as does ventilation. Children will be required to wash and sanitise hands on arrival and throughout the day; tissues are widely available also! All classrooms and other spaces in school will continue to have open windows to ensure good air circulation. Staff continue to undertake twice weekly asymptomatic Lateral Flow Tests – these tests are also widely available for families from local pharmacies or by ordering online www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests for your use if you wish.

Please be mindful of arrangements for parent/carers at the beginning and end of the day – Mrs Hindle has written to you today to remind all parent/carers that you need to remain on the playground – do not come onto the paths/steps or approach the classroom doors at this time. For parent/carers of Classes 3 and 4 you need to stand away from the classroom doors on the designated area of 'no-mow' grass. I thank you for your support with this.

Please note also that all contact with the school office is to continue to be via email and telephone.

If you exit via Sea Street please use the path, the car parking spaces are back in use now so there is not a safe way for you to exit on the road side of the pedestrian fence. The designated disabled parking bay is also back in use.

Coronavirus

If your child has symptoms of COVID-19 – a new continuous cough, a change in taste/smell or a temperature - they must not attend school and a PCR test should be taken; this is the same as before.

On 16 August changes came into effect with regards isolation following contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19. This means that a confirmed case in the class will not automatically lead to the class being closed (as before). If you have a confirmed case in your family, other family members do not need to isolate IF they are under the age of 18 years 6 months or double vaccinated – please note this important change. It is recommended that contacts of the confirmed case do undertake a PCR test.

As always, please keep the school office well-informed about reasons for absence and whether you have confirmed COVID-19 in your household.

If the infection rate in school, or the wider community, becomes of concern we may have to revert to some of our previous control measures such as reinstating bubbles, closing bubbles with confirmed cases, re-introducing staggered drop-off and collection times and using face coverings again – I will let you know if these measures are needed.

Welcome

We have been getting to know our new Reception Class children this week and their families as well as a few children who have joined us in other classes. We also welcome new staff members Danielle Brett (TA), Laura Claringbould (Midday Supervisor), Maria Lane (Cleaner) and Stacie Mills (Before School Childcare Service Supervisor).

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter so that you are up to speed with information – do please also check the letter which came out earlier this week with further information including key dates for the year.

Helen Comfort



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Coronavirus Symptoms

Children or staff with any of the three symptoms of Covid:

- a new continuous cough;
- a fever;
- a change in taste or smell

are to stay at home and isolate. They should get a PCR Covid test. If a child (under the age of 18 years 6 months) comes into contact with someone who has tested positive at home, school or elsewhere they need to arrange a PCR test, but should continue to attend school while awaiting the result (provided they are well and have no symptoms of COVID). This is a significant change to previously.

To get a test go online to:

nhs.uk/coronavirus OR

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/> OR

Telephone 111

Keeping School Informed

If your child tests positive for Covid you must inform the school – by telephone on 01304 852639 during the school day. If your child tests positive 'out of hours' we do not need to know until the morning of the first day of absence – as with all sickness absence.

The Week Ahead!

Lunch Menu: Week 2

Week commencing 6th September 2021

Thursday, 9th September – Kent Test for registered Year 6 pupils

