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5th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a lovely Christmas. It has been great to see our children return today and hear their holiday news.

To start the new term and year, I would like to share some information and reminders with you-

Covid-19 Measures/Risk Assessment

These mainly remain the same as they did before the Christmas holidays, however there are one or two additions/updates. The main areas to note are as follows:

- Wherever possible, year groups will stay separate. This includes sitting in separate groupings in the lunch hall with set times for each year group.
- Some of our small mixed groups will still go ahead (ie Phonics groups and other Interventions) as well as mixed after school groups such as Irish Dancing. We will continue to monitor the situation and may make changes to this if needed.
- On the yard at break and lunch-times, we will return to keeping year groups separate on the yards as much as possible. For indoor breaks, pupils stay in their usual classrooms with no mixing.
- We will return to virtual Assemblies for the time-being. These are shown on the class screens and follow the same format of our usual face to face Assemblies.
- Apart from our usual Sports coaches and Music tutors, we will not plan to have any other visitors this half term. We will also not plan any external visits for the time-being as we see how the situation develops. We are hoping to invite parents/carers to the Year 5 and Year 2 Class Assemblies at the end of this half term but will confirm arrangements nearer the time.
- Staff will wear masks when moving around the school and overseeing drop off and collection points. We would like parents/carers to also wear masks again on the yards/in busy areas and if speaking to staff members on the yard.
- When visiting the school office, all parents/carers must wear masks please.



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- Year 5 pupils will continue to be collected at the same door they come into school on a morning. This will reduce numbers and congestion on the yard. We would ask Year 5 parents/carers to space out as best they can within this courtyard area.
- At the end of the school day, parents/carers and their children must leave the yard immediately. A reminder also that the KS2 Timber Trail must not be used at any time before and after the school day. It is out of use anyway during the Winter months as is dangerous to use when damp and icy.
- Staff are continuing to carry our regular lateral flow tests and we would ask our families to do the same. Let us know if you are unsure about how to get a supply of these.
- We will continue to maintain high levels of hand washing/hands hygiene and ensure classrooms and other areas are well ventilated.

Testing and Self-Isolation

Please see below the most up to date information about this sent to schools by the Department for Education

Children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years, 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend school as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances. Individuals with COVID-19 may now take LFD 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 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.

Update 06/01/2022 - From 11th January, 22 – Asymptomatic Individuals testing positive after taking an LFD test are no longer required to take a PCR test but should self-isolate and take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 as above.

After School Clubs

We will continue to run Irish Dancing (re-starts 12th January) and there will be some clubs open to KS2 pupils also (further details to follow) this half term. All other After School clubs will commence after the half term holiday. We are currently putting a leaflet together to let you know what will be on offer from February to July and this will be sent out soon.

Class Dojo

Following some questions about Class Dojo in our recent parent/carer survey, I would like to confirm how Class Dojo will be used in Years 1 to 6 from January 2022. Teachers will use the resource to:



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- add details about homework activities each week and any reminders about organisation/events that may be needed.
- share news of at least one class activity each week, including photos.
- send photos and brief messages during class trips/visits/special events

EYFS will continue to use Class Dojo as a regular means of communication between staff and parents/carers and sharing information about your child's learning and progress.

Parents/Carers may use Dojo to send brief messages to Teachers. However please ensure that the following guidelines are followed:

- do not use Class Dojo to inform of absences, medical conditions or changes to end of day collection. **These should be done via the office and office staff will pass on this information.** This is because teachers may not always see these messages in time, particularly if they are sent before the start of or during the school day. If you wish to send an additional message/reminder to the teacher, this is fine as long as you have already informed the school office staff.
- Please do not expect an immediate response to your messages. Teachers tend to check Class Dojo messages and reply to these after the end of the school day. Also do not expect a reply after 6pm. Some teachers do reply after this time but this will depend on how they wish to manage this communication within their work and home hours. **Anything that requires an urgent or quick response should always be communicated via the school office**

Homework

We are currently reviewing and updating our Homework policy and will share this with you soon, using discussions with staff, parents/carers and governors to further improve this aspect of our curriculum.

Uniform

A few reminders about uniform as we start the new term:

- Earrings must not be worn
- Haircuts should be in keeping with our school policy
- A white T-Shirt and black shorts or joggers to be worn for PE. A black school jumper/black cardigan should now also be worn on PE days. We are looking into pricing for a school hoody with the school logo on which parents/carers may wish to purchase for PE days also. We will let you know details about this soon.
- Black shoes/boots should be worn

Many thanks as always for your support with these areas. Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Below you will find dates for the Spring Term

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle

DIARY DATES



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WB 17th January – postponed Year 6 Parents Evening meetings (via Zoom/phone call). Mr Storrar will be in touch with parents/carers to arrange these

7th February: Mrs Baum returns to Year 5 class (Miss Curle)

8th February: Safer Internet Day

9th and 10th February: Internet Safety workshops for KS2 classes

11th February: Internet Safety Workshop for Parents/Carers, 2pm

18th February: Miss Curle/Mrs Baum class Assembly at 9.15am
Mrs Exley's Class Assembly at 2.30pm

18th February: End of Half Term

28th February: Return to School and start of our annual One Britain Week

1st March: Anti-Bullying Workshops (Hate Incident/Crime Theme) with our local PSCOS for Years 4/5/6

3rd March: Work Book Day/Rainbow Day Children may come to school dressed as a book character or in colourful clothing to celebrate equality, diversity and individuality.

7th and 8th March: KS1/EYFS Parents Evenings

14th and 15th March: KS2 Parents Evenings (Year 6 meetings may be moved to later in the year)

25th March: Mothers' Day breakfast (TBC)

6th April: Easter Coffee Afternoons (TBC)

8th April: Mrs Dadswell's Class Assembly, 9.15am
Mr Walsh's Class Assembly, 2.30pm

8th April: End of Spring Term

Another reminder also that we have agreed to take our additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Monday 27th June



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