

Newsletter ~ Term 3, Week 6

Teams Rollout

We have been on an incredibly rapid journey since the beginning of term and I would like to begin by thanking Mr Groves, who has 'masterminded' the rollout and has worked tirelessly to enable so much to be in place so quickly. School staff have absorbed a huge amount of new information and have put many additional hours into learning new skills and managing the learning of children both in and out of school. We are grateful for all their work too.

We thank you also for your continued support – we know that the reduction of places available in school was challenging for some families. We can see from your children's engagement in Teams, that despite the challenges, you continue to put learning high on your list of priorities.

We hope that wider re-opening of schools is just around the corner and that we see many of you back in school before too long. We are already planning how best to manage the transition from home to school and how we can continue to 'fill the gaps' that have been left by the pandemic. This is an issue faced by all schools and there is government recognition that 'catch-up' must be in the forefront of all our minds.

Please help us improve our Home Learning offer by completing the online survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=SiCl620yHEODHwef_nTml43ZOciscHllpGJqkZPZxz9UOUVFTUk3UzYxTUdHUURRT0M1V1RMWDJRMC4u

We have had some very useful responses already that I have fed back to staff to help them with planning for the next term. Thank you if you have accessed the survey already.

Our responsibility for promoting e-safety and for upholding our behaviour expectations covers all children in or out of school, so if you are worried about one of these issues, please let us know. Bullying and poor behaviour is unacceptable whether children are at home on Teams or in school.

LATERAL FLOW DEVICE TESTING – SCHOOL STAFF

Staff at our school have been asked to participate in Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFDT). As many as 1 in 3 people may be carrying the virus but not show any symptoms (asymptomatic) and this is why NHS England and the DFE have planned the LFDT programme for education staff.

In line with the government guidance, testing will take place twice weekly. If a member of staff gets a positive result from the LFDT, they are required to self-isolate and book a confirmatory PCR test at a test centre. Staff will notify school immediately if they have received a positive result and we will send a Parent Pay email to advise which pupils should not attend school. Once the result of the PCR test has been received, we will send a further update to families to advise if the pupils can return to school or should continue to isolate for the remainder of the isolation period.

We appreciate that sending an email first thing in the morning is very short notice and may present challenges for parents but this is ultimately to help halt the spread of the virus and return to normality as soon as we are able.

Please email the school office if your child has been in school within 48 hours of displaying Covid-19 symptoms or having a positive test result, as we are responsible for assisting with Track and Trace during the half term holidays. As at Christmas, emails will be checked at 10am each day.

A Message from our Chair of Governors

Dear Parent and Carers

We had a visit this week from two Ofsted inspectors who assessed the education the school is offering and its Safeguarding. The official judgement will be published soon and you will receive a copy of it. We can't say too much but it was a very different experience to that of last year and it is clear that the school has made considerable progress. Thank you to all who gave your views on the school via ParentView.

Our longstanding Local Authority governor, Pauline Tillett, resigned this term and we thank her for all her hard work. We hope she will still be involved in and around the school. We are currently finalising the appointment of three more governors including the newly elected parent governor, Laura McSweeney. Finally, we wish you all a good half term.

Ann Tarr

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Safeguarding, Wellbeing and Mental Health: Useful Resources

<https://youngminds.org.uk/supporting-parents-helpfinder/> Answer these six questions to find out how you can support your child's mental health during the pandemic.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/media/4291/when-emotions-explode-poster.pdf>

A link to some resources to help parents and carers with on-line safety:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf41oqLODZCDK0mdj6ulSDg>

And tips for all spending long hours staring at a screen...

<https://beaconhouse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Screen-Savers-1.pdf>

Emergency Funding

Because of our Ofsted judgment from January 2020, a partner school has now been able to access some emergency government funding to help us with our school improvement journey. It is a considerable sum of public money and will be overseen by a Project Board to ensure that the fund is used effectively and impacts directly on rapid school improvement.

Governors and school leaders are very heartened by this news as it means we finally have some external support to help us. It has been a long and difficult year without this Emergency Fund and we are united in welcoming the support and advice we need.

We will make sure you have regular updates on the progress we are making against our Ofsted feedback, both from January 20 and from this most recent Monitoring visit.

And Finally...

There are far too many words in this newsletter already, so just a pictorial reminder that spring is on its way...

**Reminder: School is closed to all pupils on Monday 22 February for an INSET day
Have a good half term**



