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4th March 2021

Newsletter 8

Dear Parents,

As I said last week, it gives me great pleasure to start this newsletter with the knowledge that we will be a full school once again from next Monday, **8th March 2021**. All children will join their own year group, as we can now have classes of more than 15. We will continue to minimise movement across our class 'pods', but as a small school we still consider ourselves as one bubble. Staff will continue to be able to move across classes and we will have visiting professionals supporting us in our school. Our updated risk assessment will be available to view on our website next week.

Lunch

We will be holding just one sitting in our lunch hall with children sitting in their classes, spaced apart. They will then play in zoned areas next to each other outside, but again, movements across classes will be minimised. All of the usual hand and respiratory hygiene will be maintained and the room will be well ventilated.

Fruit and Milk.

Children will no longer need to bring in their own snack as we will be receiving our usual fruit deliveries. Those who have already signed up for milk (children under 5 continue to get this automatically) will be given this from next week.

Book bags

We will be starting to use book bags again daily from next week, but would ask that they are only used for exchange of books or paperwork, rather than encouraging children to bring things into school. Please can all scheme reading books be brought back to school as soon as possible in the book bags. Books will continue to be quarantined for 48 hours before being sent home. We are aiming for key stage 1 children to change their books daily and reception children twice weekly.

Breakfast and after school clubs

These will continue to be offered to all families as usual. Places will need to be booked and we ask that families pay in advance if they can.

Timings are shown below:

Years 1 (Foxes) & Year 2 (Owls)	8.45 – 8.50 a.m.
Early Years (Hedgehogs)	8.50 – 9.00 a.m.

We will be starting our phonics teaching sessions promptly so please can we ask that all children are punctual. Picking up times will remain as normal (the old normal!) of:

Years 1 (Foxes) & Year 2 (Owls)	3.10 p.m.
Early Years (Hedgehogs)	3.00 p.m.

We have been guided to resume our usual approach to attendance and lateness. We will continue to use our one-way system. Please can parents also continue to practice social distancing and wear masks for drop-off and pick up.

Usual school uniform should be worn. Let us know if you have had problems purchasing new items and we will of course be flexible until shops are open. As always, you will need to send your children to school prepared for the changing British weather!

Other Covid-19 related issues

Our protective measures will remain as important as ever so please continue to encourage children to practice these at home.

We will take our usual approach to any Covid-related symptoms for children, family members and staff.

Staff will continue to engage in twice weekly voluntary testing through rapid lateral flow tests.

In addition, we have been informed that all adult family members of primary aged school children will have access to rapid testing. Details are given below:

Testing will continue to be a vital part of our response to coronavirus (COVID-19), supporting the roadmap set out by the Prime Minister earlier this week. As we cautiously ease restrictions in England, starting with the return of schools and moving towards more social mixing at the end of March, we need to be sure that each COVID-19 case is found as quickly and as easily as possible. Although cases are declining, everyone needs to play their part to keep the virus under control while keeping children and young people in school.

*As laid out in the roadmap, secondary school and college students will now be tested twice a week, receiving three initial tests at school or college before transitioning to twice weekly home testing. **Primary school children will not be regularly asymptotically tested due to low levels of transmission between younger aged children but will continue to need to come forward for tests if they have symptoms.***

In addition to this, the government has confirmed twice-weekly testing using rapid lateral flow tests will be given for free to all families and households with primary, secondary school and college aged children and young people, including childcare and support bubbles, to help find more COVID-19 cases and break chains of transmission. Twice-weekly testing will also be offered to adults working in the wider school community, including bus drivers and after school club leaders.

With about a third of individuals with coronavirus showing no symptoms and potentially spreading it without knowing, targeted, regular testing will mean more positive cases within households are found and prevented from entering schools and colleges, helping to keep educational settings safe.

Rapid testing detects cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning positive cases can isolate immediately. This can be the difference between children being able to stay in school, or a class being sent home due to an outbreak. It could also be the difference between a workplace having to close for a period, or being able to stay open and running.'

Getting a rapid test is quick and convenient. The expanded regular testing offer for people without symptoms will be delivered through:

- testing in-person via workplace testing
- local authority test sites
- collection at a local PCR test site during specific test collection time windows
- a new home ordering service, which once launched on 1 March will allow people to order lateral flow tests online to be delivered to their home

More information about how to do so can be found using this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff#primary-or-secondary-school-staff>



Please note!

Wednesday 10th March 2021

As you know we have postponed this magical day so that all of our children (and staff) can join in, dressed as a book character of their choice.

We want to make this a special day, a reminder about the unbelievable power of books, and how they can transport us to other places and spaces and help us stretch our imagination, hearts and minds!

Never judge a book by it's cover!

Don't forget that we are asking children to swap a book next week for our Book Day. Whilst we appreciate that it is hard to part with personal possessions, we feel that this is a great way to help children to understand the value of giving and sharing. **As we don't want the owner of the book to be obvious, we are asking that your child wraps the book with you so they will recognise the wrapping paper and will not choose their own book and take it home again!**

An explanation of our idea is copied from our last newsletter below:

Every book is a precious item to be treasured, and she thought children would enjoy having a new book to read at home that had already been pre-loved by one of their classmates. We thought that donating a book that can be enjoyed by somebody else would also be a great way of 'giving' and thinking of others. Please can we ask you to

take the time to talk to your child about books they have loved and would be willing to swap. We are asking them to then choose 1 book (age appropriate) and wrap it up in wrapping paper, so the cover isn't visible and they will have to choose randomly. This should then be brought into school on their return on 8th March. This book will then be quarantined and swapped in classes on our Book Day and taken home to enjoy. We would be happy to help any family that would find this difficult, just let us know. We will also be sending home a World Book Day book token as usual and doing all of the wonderful activities that we usually do. We can't wait.

Stay well and safe.

Paula Bliss

March 16th Young Carers Action Day
March 19th Red Nose Day

Our Lent **40 Acts** resources can be found

<https://40acts.org.uk/resources/>



Red Nose Day.

Details can be found here as well as a link to Billy Monger's Just Giving page. We are asking children to come to school with a painted red nose or an item of red clothing. We will not be taking donations at the school, but will be asking all donations to be made through this just giving page.

In honour of Billy's courage, we will be working with Premier Sports to provide our pupils with their own personal challenges, 3 new physical things they have never done before!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vG9X1uXpqsM>

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday/challenges/billy/>

Love & Peace

Trust & Thankfulness

Forgiveness & Hope