

Newsletter – September 2020



We are now at the beginning of the second full week of the Autumn Term. The children are settling well and are now very familiar with the changes to routine that we have put in place for the beginning of the school year.

Class bubble lockdowns – preparing for home learning

We would all prefer to be teaching children in school but we have to be prepared for the situation when a bubble could have to be learning at home following a positive test.

It is also possible that we could have to close a bubble if we did not have enough staff to open safely. School staff have to follow the same guidance around testing and self-isolation as children. Please don't assume, however, that a member of staff who is not at school is isolating. They may be on a course or be generally unwell but not requiring a test. When we are covering a short-term absence we use cover from within school. This may include using a teaching assistant or higher level teaching assistant to cover a class.

This week we will be sending home a pack with every child that contains a supply of learning 'essential' material. Please keep your child's pack somewhere safe and ready to use in the event of a bubble lockdown.

Our learning platform, Microsoft Education, is being set up now. There was a slight delay due to changes to our school emails but we should be ready to go by the end of this week.

We have written a policy for remote (home) learning that will be discussed at the school's Governing Body meeting next week. Once this has been formally agreed, I will share it with you on the school website.

Supply teachers

There are occasions where we will use a supply teacher to cover a longer term staff absence. This may include a situation such as jury service or where a member of staff was unwell but not absent due to COVID-19. The supply agency that we use works closely with Buckinghamshire Council and has a very strict risk assessment that includes ensuring the same teacher provides cover if we know that this will be required over several days.

School lunches

As you know, at the moment we are unable to serve hot dinners in the hall and we have therefore been providing a sandwich lunch instead. Chartwells, our catering provider, have been working with us to look at how we could improve this offer to be able to provide more than sandwiches.

This week, we will be sending out a new menu for hot lunches that can be served safely in the classrooms. The lunches will come in individual lidded boxes. These will be available from 5th October and should be an improvement on our current lunch options!

Social Distancing at pick up and drop off time

Government guidance around social distancing in the community is becoming much stricter as COVID cases have started to rise again, with the 'rule of six' coming into force from today. Several parents have already expressed concern around the lack of social distancing between parents at pick up time and dropping off time and the risk that this poses to all of us.

Please can I ask everyone to be very mindful of the need to keep a safe distance from others when waiting to drop off and collect at school. Please can parents move away from the school gates and surrounding area as soon as possible. Remember the 'rule of six' and the current government slogan, 'hands, face, space'.

Flu vaccinations

The flu vaccinations will be on 3rd December. Further information will be sent nearer the time.

Congratulations to Mrs Warne and family

We'd like to end this newsletter with the exciting news that Mrs Warne gave birth to a beautiful baby daughter on 9th September. Welcome to the world, Eloise Anne!

TERM DATES: 2020-2021		
	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn Term	Thursday 3 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring Term	Tuesday 5 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer Term	Tuesday 20 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
	Tuesday 8 June 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021
Staff Training Days	<i>Tuesday 1 Sept 2020 Wednesday 2 Sept 2020 Monday 4 January 2021 Monday 19 April 2021 Monday 7 June 2021</i>	