

Newsletter 12 – Friday 21 January 2022

Getting Around

There has been so much to celebrate since our return in January. Running assemblies in smaller groups has helped us share the progress and achievements of pupils in school and we look forward to increasing the range of attendance at these as the year progresses. We miss the sound of 400 pupils giving it all they've got when singing together!

YR and Y3 pupils are enjoying their 'Kicks Dance' sessions in the hall and Y4 are having musical fun with clarinets. In addition, I have dropped in to see Y4 learning the contracted method of multiplication and Y2 work on extended descriptive writing. Very impressive! Also, we have been able to set up some new Y6 groups and we're already seeing some enhanced progress as a result. As always, it is such a pleasure talking to the pupils about their learning and watching their confidence grow.

I am also really looking forward to the Y1 Oak assembly next week, closely followed by others from Y1 and Y3. It seems such a long time since this cohort were able to gather and enjoy themselves in school with their families – let's hope that as local and national measures change, more of the same will be possible for all.

Covid update

Just a reminder to all that attendance is mandatory for all pupils, unless they are self-isolating due to a positive Covid-19 test themselves or they have a different illness. Holidays and treat days cannot be authorised.

The latest government guidance on isolation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-those-with-covid-19-can-end-after-five-full-days-following-two-negative-lfd-tests>

Please note that:

- People self-isolating with COVID-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative on both day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature.
- The day symptoms begin, or you test positive, is Day Zero.
- Day 1 is the first day after a positive test.
- If you test negative on day five, you can take another test 24 hours later on day six. Assuming this is also negative - and you do not have a temperature - you can immediately leave isolation. Pupils will then be able to attend school straight away.
- Individuals who are still positive on their rapid lateral flow tests must stay in isolation until they have had 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days.

With recent changes, we have needed to update our Covid Risk Assessment once again and the latest version is attached for your information.

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Attendance

Remote learning is distributed for those who have tested positive and cannot attend school, but pupils who are isolating due to Covid – 19 are not expected to work until they are well enough to do so.

Where cases are currently high, we ask the DfE and County for advice and make sure that any recommended additional measures are put into place. These currently include additional cleaning and fogging, increased ventilation, spreading pupils out, changing lunch play times, limiting mixing and eating lunches in class instead of the hall. Rest assured that our measures match any advice we receive.

Over the last 2 days we have liaised with the Department for Education, UK Health Protection Agency, our Local Authority Area Education Advisor and Infection Control at West Sussex County Council, sharing all of our Covid information and concerns. All parties are satisfied with the School and the proportionality of the measures we currently have in place.

Anything other measures, such as a closure of a class, or pupils not attending when fit to do so, is currently not possible and would be against guidance.

As long as we have staff in place, including any supply and the option to join classes if numbers are significantly low, we must keep on educating pupils in school. Any closure is a very last resort, where provision of a teacher is not possible.

It therefore follows that as attendance is mandatory, any unauthorised absences reaching 10 sessions or more will trigger a fixed penalty referral to the Local Authority.

Staffing

The latest guidance on pregnancy in schools from West Sussex means that Mrs Kennedy will be working from home from Monday 7 February until her maternity leave officially starts. Playing to our strengths, Y1 Oak Class will be covered by Mrs Rhodes and Miss Sowton leading up to half term.

Mr Waters will extend his stay with us until the end of the academic year to allow consistency for Y4 Lime Class.

After half term, Mrs Lowe, an experienced practitioner, returns from her maternity. From Monday 28 February Y1 Oak will be taught by Mrs Lowe and Miss Sowton.

Mrs Thomas will provide release time for Y4 Larch.

There will be no other changes.

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Classroom Assistants

After 22 years of commitment to the school in various roles, Mrs Sellars retires from her current 2 day contract supporting YR on Friday 28 January. I am sure that you will join us all in wishing her well as she commits more time to her family.

We also thank Mrs Evans, who leaves us after a shorter stay on Friday 11 February and we wish her well with her move after spending time in YR and Y1.

An advert will be placed soon for new support and we welcome any applications from our community at that point.

Term Dates – Reminders

February	
21 – 25	Half Term
March	
29	Parents' Evening 1 (3.30 – 6.00 PM)
31	Parents' Evening 2 (4.00 – 7.00 PM)
April	
8	End of Term
11 - 22	Easter Holiday
25	Staff and Pupils return for Summer Term

We will let you know closer to the time if the Spring Parents' Evenings will be face to face or over the telephone.

Kind regards

M Gildea

Headteacher