

Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year.

The children have come back full of news about their time off and ready for the new term.

I am very relieved that schools have remained open unlike this time last year when we opened on the Monday only for schools to be closed from the Tuesday.

Whilst school is continuing as usual for the children Covid does still cause considerable staffing pressures for us and many companies. We are really pleased that the government do not intend to close schools again but they have said they are aware that staffing is a problem in schools. They have said that schools can use teaching assistants to cover classes and we can mix/merge classes to cover as well if necessary. This is not ideal but I am making you aware of the staffing issues all schools are facing. We will only return to remote learning if absolutely unavoidable. Hopefully, this won't happen and things will start to pick up soon.

At the moment guidance also says that face masks are to be worn by adults in communal areas but not classrooms. All trips have been suspended for the time being and only essential visitors are allowed in school.

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for Covid

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, unless you cannot test for any reason. Individuals 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. Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 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 their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Confirmatory PCR tests to be temporarily suspended for positive lateral flow device test results

Confirmatory PCR tests following a positive lateral flow test result are to be temporarily suspended from Tuesday 11 January. This will mean that anyone who receives a positive LFD test result will be required to self-isolate immediately and will not be required to take a confirmatory PCR test.

Vacancy

We are looking for a Level 3 qualified person to work in our After School Club. Please see Becky in the office if you are interested.

Lunch play equipment

If anyone has any toy cars or trucks, pens, skipping ropes, balls, beanbags or clipboards that they no longer need we would like some for the children to have at lunchtimes. We would also like wheelee suitcases so each class has a case they can take out full of play things each lunch time. If you have any of these items you no longer need we would be very grateful.

Online safety magazine

The new online safety magazine DITTO is now on our website. You can find it under the Parents – E-Safety tab. This edition contains lots of useful information about: New devices, technology tools, Online safety - the basics, Online sexual harassment, Instagram changes and TikTok safety mode.

Many thanks for your continued support

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford

Diary dates:

Thursday 13th January – theatre performance KS1, restrictions permitting.

Gold Awards: Sycamore Class – Evie K, Isla

Silver Awards: Rowan Class - Issy

Bronze Awards: Cherry Class – Arthur, Damian, Jonah, Hollie, Louie, Maple Class – Harry He

Stars of the week: Oak Class – Imogen, Rowan Class – Sam, Sycamore Class – Poppy W, Cherry Class – Daisy, Maple Class – Gemma, Beech Class – Theo