

31st March 2022

Dear Parents,

The past two weeks have been particularly busy in school with so many special activities being enjoyed by the children. Thank you for your support of Comic Relief and DEC for the situation in the Ukraine on Friday 18th March. The children looked wonderful and raised a wonderful amount of money which the leaders of the School Council decided to share equally between the two causes. Last week was assessment and DT week. The children completed their termly assessment activities in English and Mathematics, and then spent a considerable amount of time working on a range of Design and Technology projects. It was so lovely to see the care and attention the children gave to these; and their obvious enjoyment of the design process, their determination in the making and careful evaluation of their end product.

This week is back to normal timetable, and the children are very engaged with their learning. On Tuesday Y2 visited Bletchley Park as part of their History learning. They so enjoyed their visit, and are very enthused by the idea of codes! Tomorrow we are looking forward to Y1's special assembly about Easter, and to welcoming the Y1 parents to this event. Next week will be the end of this Spring term and, all being well, the children will be walking up to St Giles for our traditional Easter service. This will be our first visit as a school since Christmas 2019 – it feels like a lifetime ago.

As we continue to move into a world where we are living with Covid, we have reviewed our risk management plans for the summer term. As mentioned previously we will continue with all the hygiene measures and good ventilation, and the playground will remain zoned as at present. As with wider society, we are still experiencing the impact of the advised isolation and outbreaks of the new variant. However, after Easter the one-way system for entry into school will be ended and we will be returning to pre-pandemic arrangements. In the morning the children may enter school by either gate, coming onto the playground without their adult. They will continue to come straight into the school building, and staff will be on duty to ensure their safety. At the end of the day parents are welcome to use either gate to come onto the playground to collect the children from 3:10pm. Please could we ask that if you are dropping your child at the front gate that every effort is made to minimise congestion in the pathway, and, should you be walking your dog as part of school drop-off, that dogs are not allowed on the pathway from the High Street. Thank you for your support with this – it will be a big step for our children in both YR and Y1 who have never known coming in independently from the gate in the morning. May I also request that at the end of the day the children in YR to Y2 collect their own lunchbox from the trolley, rather than parents or younger siblings collecting this on their behalf, as this also helps the children to grow in independence.

I must once again ask parents not to park in the immediate environs of the school unless there is genuinely no alternative for you. As we move after Easter to using both gates, please could I ask that you do not park close to the school on the High Street as this increases congestion and potentially places children who are walking at risk. All children should be crossing the road with Mr Frankum, who has the authority to stop the traffic. Thank you for your support.

After a long period of time, it is disappointing that we have an outbreak of head-lice in the school. The recommended actions are to check your child's hair regularly, wash and apply conditioner then comb thoroughly with a very narrow toothed comb designed to remove both live lice and eggs. (This could take 20 minutes for a child with long hair.) Then to rinse and dry as normal. This should be repeated every few days for at least two weeks to ensure that all eggs are removed. (The NHS recommend treatment on at least days 1, 5, 9 and 13 with a further check on day 17.) Please could we ask all families to check their children's hair over the next week and treat accordingly should any lice or eggs be noticed. Hopefully we can eradicate them over the Easter holiday period and start summer term afresh. Thank you for your help.

We have been asked by the Department for Education to share the following information with parents:

'Healthy 5 to 11 year olds will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine from the beginning of April. Vaccinations will take place outside of school, in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GP surgeries and walk-in centres. Parents of 5 to 11 year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information on the vaccine.

For 5 to 11 year old and 12 to 15 year old vaccinations, please signpost parents to where they can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments online](#), at a vaccination centre or pharmacy, or [find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#) without needing an appointment. Appointments and walk-ins can be accessed for 12 to 15 year olds now, and bookings will open up for 5 to 11 year olds from the beginning of April.'

Please note that, as with any vaccinations, the decision to and consent for vaccination lie with you as the parents.

The Governors would like to thank you for your participation in the Parent Survey. They will be analysing your responses over the coming weeks and will share any actions arising with you next term.

As you are already aware we are saying goodbye to Mrs Craft, Mrs Dance and Mrs Merridan next week. We will miss them, and thank them for all they have contributed to our school over the years. We wish them well for their next adventures.

Silverstone Interactive Museum have donated a voucher which offers discount to families of the school as a possible Easter Holiday activity idea. Your children will be bringing one home should you wish to use it. It is so long since we have been able to visit places due to the pandemic; and I hope you will be able to enjoy some time with your children out and about away from home wherever you decide to visit.

As this is the last full newsletter prior to the Easter Holidays, may I wish you all a very Happy Easter. I do hope that the weather will feel more spring like – it is snowing as I am writing this to you – and that you will be able to enjoy some quality time with your children and family. We look forward to welcoming the children back into school on Tuesday 26th April at 8:25am.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher