

25th March 2021

Dear Parents,

This will be the last newsletter of this Spring term – it hardly seems a moment since we welcomed back all of the children into the on-site school and here we are almost at the end of the term! Monday 29th March hopefully will be marked by the next stage of the gradual release of lockdown; to be followed during the Easter break with further changes from April 12th. It is so important that we all remember that the rules around this step-by-step approach back to more interactions with our family and friends need to be taken seriously so that we do not have a re-escalation of cases of Covid-19 as is sadly being seen on the Continent at present.

The children have had a very busy time in school over the past two weeks. Last week was a re-orientation week when the learning focused on key concepts covered during the time of predominantly remote learning. This week the children have completed their termly assessment tasks and are working on some very exciting Design and Technology projects. The teachers are concerned that for some children the early months of this year have seen a decrease in independence and resilience, so a strong focus on growth mind-set is featuring in the activities in the classrooms. It is also sadly evident that some children reported having completed work whilst at home when in fact there is no evidence to suggest that this was the case. We will be continuing to work extremely hard over the coming months to ensure that all children have a sound understanding of the core concepts which will allow them to progress in their learning moving forward.

To help your children with their independence, please could I ask that they check they have everything they need for the school day prior to coming to school. We have had an increasing number of forgotten items which has led to more parents popping in to drop things off. This causes considerable challenge and disruption at a time when in school we are required to be extremely careful around high-touch points and any possibility of children mixing with those from other year groups. The children should also be responsible for their belongings and not expect an adult to take charge of these for them. Thank you for your support with this – it is an important life skill for the children.

The Department for Education have updated some of their publications for parents and have asked schools to share these links with you:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19?utm_source=17%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

and https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/information-for-parents-and-carers-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=17%20March%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

The Director for Education from Buckinghamshire Council has also asked us to share a message regarding testing with you. It is at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you to all parents for your care and support by wearing face coverings on the playground, and for maintaining social distance. May I remind you that your children must stay close by you when waiting for a sibling, and should not be playing even with their peers from their class. Please remember to watch for your child and then walk and meet to avoid congestion on the playground and at the exit. Thank you.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, after consultation regarding the exceptional circumstances, and in order to make the meetings meaningful, we are arranging Parent Consultation Meetings for Tuesday 27th April and Thursday 29th April. As last term these will be virtual meetings via GoogleMeet, and further details will be sent to you at the start of the summer term. You will be invited to book your time slot, and the member of staff will then send you the appropriate code and admit you to the meeting at your chosen time. Appointments will be for 10 minutes and will be during the day. We thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

Next Wednesday afternoon, the children will be taking part in Eco afternoon, which is around energy use this time. We do hope that families may be able to take part in Earth Hour this Saturday at 8:30pm. Please also remember that, as is our custom, the children will be finishing for the Easter break an hour earlier than normal – so collection will be between 1:30pm and 2pm.

I do wish you all a restful break over the Easter period – at least there will be no home learning for you to feel pressured by!! We look forward to welcoming the children to summer term on Tuesday 20th April at the usual staggered drop off times.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

Message from Mr S. James, Buckinghamshire Council:

As you probably already know, everyone working in primary schools and Early Years settings is testing twice a week for COVID-19 to help keep the school community safe. While **nursery and primary school pupils do not have to be tested**, other members of their households can access regular testing and we urge you to do so - every case we can pick up and isolate helps to stop the virus spreading and ultimately keeps us all safer.

Anyone with a child at a primary school can get tested regularly by attending one of the four rapid test sites in Buckinghamshire, or you can go and collect test kits to do yourself at home. If it's hard for you to go to a site, you can have test kits posted out to you – all the details are on the government's website at www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff

Thank you so much for playing your part in the fight against COVID-19. For more local information about COVID-19 and to find the locations of the Buckinghamshire rapid test sites, you can go to the Buckinghamshire Council website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

Simon James
Service Director – Education
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