

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023



### Newsletter 4 January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that you had a wonderful time with your families over the Christmas break.

#### Illness

Unfortunately, it does not appear that the Christmas holiday has altered the high levels of illness that we were experiencing amongst children and staff before we finished for the holidays. The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has issued the following statement to North West parents/carers.

#### **Back-to-school advice issued to North West parents amid high levels of flu, COVID-19 and scarlet fever circulating**

As pupils and students return to school following the Christmas break this week, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is reminding people that winter illnesses continue to circulate at high levels, but following simple steps can help protect children, minimise the spread of illness in education and childcare settings and protect wider communities.

Flu and coronavirus (COVID-19) are [currently circulating at high levels](#) and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks. High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also [continue to be reported](#).

**Prof Susan Hopkins, Chief medical Adviser at UKHSA, said:** *"It's important to minimise the spread of infection in schools and other education and childcare settings as much as possible. **If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved.**"*

*"Helping children to learn about the importance of good hand hygiene is also key, so practice regular handwashing at home with soap and warm water. Catching coughs and sneezes in tissues then binning them is another simple way to help stop illness from spreading."*

*"Adults should also try to stay home when unwell and if you do have to go out, wear a face covering. When unwell don't visit healthcare settings unless urgent or visit vulnerable people."*

*"Remember that flu vaccination is still available for all eligible groups and is the best protection against the virus. We have seen good uptake in older age groups but vaccination among young children remains low. Flu can be very unpleasant and, in some cases, can lead to more serious illness. Getting your child vaccinated protects them and those they come into contact with and it's still not too late."*

**Dr Merav Kliner, UKHSA North West Deputy Director, said:** *"As we see more cases of flu across the North West, we can all play a part in reducing infections spreading by*

*following simple measures. It is important to remember that catching flu or other infections for more vulnerable people can be far more serious.*

*“Taking sensible measures to stop bugs spreading is something we all can and should do. These include practicing good hygiene, taking up vaccinations when offered and not mixing with vulnerable other people when you are poorly yourself.”*

Children eligible for the vaccine include:

- Children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2022
- All primary school-aged children
- Some secondary school-aged children

The key messages, I believe, are that your child should not attend school if they are unwell, remind your child of good hygiene procedures and consider vaccinating your child if they haven't already been vaccinated.

### **School Start and Finish Times**

Here is a reminder of school opening and closing times. Doors open **for all classes at 8.40am** (except F1 which is 8.45am). The doors will remain open until 8.55am and then the doors will be closed. Registers will be taken at 8.55am and any child arriving after 9am will be marked as late (L) in the register. In line with recommendations from the Department for Education (DfE), registers will close at 9.15 a.m. If children arrive after this time, they will be recorded as having arrived after closure of registers (code U). This counts as an unauthorised absence for that session. If children are late on ten or more occasions then a Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued.

Please ring the school office if your child is going to be late and our office staff will arrange for your child's entrance door to be opened. Late children should not access school via the school office.

School finishes for all children at 3.05pm (F1 3pm). If you are going to be late collecting your child from school then please let us know so that we can provide reassurance to your child.

**Learning does begin for children from 8.40am.** If your child is in early they will receive more learning! This is particularly important for Year 2 who deliver a maths intervention from 8.45am. Do try and get your children into school as early as possible so that they can benefit from our morning activities.

### **Reading Practise**

Our teaching staff completed their progress assessments for children in their classes before the Christmas holidays. It is clear that those children who practice their reading at home with parents/carers are making the best progress. It is really important that children have daily reading practice in addition to the reading that takes place in school. Please make the time to read with your child as frequently as is possible- it is so, so important.

We have received some funding from the English Hub which we have used to purchase some phonic teaching resources and new reading books. Please take great care of our new books and make sure that they are returned to school each day. We only have six copies of each title so there are no spare copies.



On the subject of reading, the children really loved having a visit from local author Susanne Schroder who read us her book *The Robin's First Christmas*. Susanne was impressed by the questions that the children asked her at the end of her presentation. Kindly, she also donated one of her books to our school library.

### **School Events**

In the lead up to Christmas there were many school events-too many to include in this newsletter! Needless to say the children had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Thank you for all your donations during the festive period. By wearing our Christmas jumpers we were able to send a donation to the Charity Stick and Step.

We also raised £273.86 for School Fund from contributions made at our school productions.

Many thanks to FOBHHS who raised money to share between the two schools at a tremendous Christmas fair. Again many thanks for all your donations for the toy/book and chocolate tombola. Members of FOBHHS also took part in the Round table tour which raised another £187! Well done to everyone involved.



With the money raised by FOBHHS we have purchased large construction equipment for the big playground. The children have really enjoyed working together and being engineers. Furthermore we have purchased an outdoor



role-play shed and reading den. We wouldn't be able to afford this equipment without the efforts of the FOBHHS team.

### **Rainy Day bags**

Before the holidays, the children's Rainy Day bags (or Icy Day bags as they became known) were put to very good use because the children couldn't go out to play because the playground was frozen. If your child hasn't got their own bag in school please can you send one in. Ask your child's class teacher if you are unsure of the contents. You may also want to ask your child to bring their bags home to replenish or replace some of the toys.

### **PE days for this half-term**

On PE days children should come to school dressed in PE kit. Our school PE kit is a white, plain t-shirt, navy or black shorts/joggers/leggings and a dark coloured hoody/zip up or school sweatshirt. Football kits should not be worn.

### **Monday- Mr Young's Class PE**

**Tuesday- Mr Hamm's Class PE**

**Wednesday- Foundation 2 PE day**

**Friday- Year 2 PE day**

**Diary dates**

Please find below the key dates for this term.

**January**

- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January- Children return to school
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January- Chinese New Year Assembly (Whole School) and Workshop (Year 2)

**February**

- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February- Foundation 2 Vision and Hearing Check
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February -Year 2 Parent and Child Book Look @2.30pm (parents invited into school)
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February -Year 1 Parent and Child Book Look @2.30pm (parents invited into school)
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Foundation 2 Parent and Child Book Look @2.30pm (parents invited into school)
- W/C 13<sup>th</sup> February Computing and Online Safety Week
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Non Uniform Day (£1 donation to school fund)  
Children finish for half-term
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February- Children return to school

**March**

- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March World Book Day (Children dress up as story book characters)  
Full Governing Body Meeting @6pm
- w/c 13<sup>th</sup> March Neuro-Diversity Week
- 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March School Art Exhibition (details to follow)
- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March Commando Joe Teamwork and Resilience Workshops (All year groups)
- W/C 27<sup>th</sup> March Parent/Teacher Week
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Finish for Easter Holidays

**April**

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Children return to school

Yours sincerely,

Julie Morris  
Headteacher