

News from the Federation

Welcome back!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you back to the start of the academic year. After months of upheaval and disruption to school provision for our children, we are delighted to have everyone back and learning in the classroom again. The staff have been working incredibly hard over the summer break to put the necessary measures in place to ensure that we can all enjoy being happy and safe at school together and we thank you for your patience as we get into our new routines. Whilst things are still very different to how we would normally do them, we are really looking forward to working with you to make sure that your children are settled and engaged in learning at school.

Start and end of school day

Thank you to you all for working with us to enable the staggered start and finish times to work, we know it is far from ideal. Please do remember to respect our neighbours and not park in front of driveways. Also please do remember to socially distance from other families as this will keep everyone safe.

Contacting teachers

As a result of the current measures that we are having to implement as a result of Covid-19, we recognise that teachers are not going to be able to have the same level of contact with parents during drop-off and pick-up. We are really keen to keep the channels of communication open to work in partnership with you, so if you do need to discuss anything with your child's teacher, please email the school office and your message will be passed on. Your child's class teacher will get in touch with you via telephone or email.

Assemblies

Although we cannot all get together in the school hall for assemblies at the moment, we are still making sure that the children have assembly time in their weekly timetable by recording assemblies to be played in the classrooms. We will also continue to have our weekly celebration assemblies on a Friday via Google Meet with achievement and progress certificates being awarded and house points.

Google Classroom

We will continue using Google Classroom to support learning in school. All homework will now be set via Google Classroom and your child's class teacher will also be using it to share/communicate with you. Our website will continue to be used to celebrate the learning within school and share important information with you.

Staffing news

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Kirby is expecting a baby in the New Year. We will begin the process of arranging maternity cover and will let you know as soon as we can.

Meet the Teacher

As you will appreciate, we cannot hold our usual face-to-face meet the teacher session this year. Instead we will provide an information video/presentation which will be put on Google Classroom for you all to see, more information about this will come next week.

Term Dates/School Closure Dates/Other Dates

Individual Photos:
Friday 9th October

Flu Vaccinations YR Reception – YR 6:
Monday 7th December.

Half Term:

Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October (inclusive)

Last Day of Autumn Term:

Friday 18th December

Breakfast and After School Club

New guidance has just been issued which means there is a possibility that we may be able to re-open our breakfast and afterschool club. We will be contacting those families who would normally use our facility to start to plan a way forward, please note that capacity and space will be limited.

If your child has any medication in school please could you email the office with the following details:

Childs name
Date of birth
Class
Medical Condition/Illness
Name of medication, dosage & method (Including timings)
Special precautions
Procedures to take in an emergency
Emergency contact name
Emergency telephone number
Relationship to child

This consent and how to administer medication will be added to the medication box in your child's classroom. It is also the parents' responsibility to ensure that the medication has not expired.

Covid-19 Testing

It has come to our attention that there is a lack of clarity, understandably, about when to keep a child off school and when to get a test etc. This is only natural as we have just come back to school and there is a real concern about possible transmission.

All the other illnesses that children usually get at this time of the year are still present. Consequently, parents and carers are in a very tricky position when it comes to deciding when to get a test.

This is the advice that school leaders have been asked to communicate to you in a recent letter from the Government.

“To ensure we identify those with coronavirus while avoiding a huge increase in demand for tests from people without coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you recommend to your pupils, students and staff who feel unwell, that they get tested if:

they develop one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms:

- *a high temperature*
- *a new, continuous cough*
- *the loss or change of their sense of taste or smell, or*
- *they are recommended to get tested by a healthcare provider (e.g. GP or nurse)*

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms described above, only they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic. Unless a pupil, student or staff member has one of the three main coronavirus symptoms, they should only be tested if instructed otherwise by the local authority, health protection team or their GP. As schools and colleges across England return, pupils and students may feel unwell for example with a sore throat, stomach upset or a headache. These pupils and students don't need to book a test but may need to stay off school or college and seek medical advice through their GP or pharmacist as usual.”

Yvonne Doyle, Medical Director and Director of Health Protection, Public Health England

Susan Hopkins, Interim Chief Medical Adviser of NHS Test and Trace

This is all that we have been told to communicate to you. We are not medically trained and so we cannot give you advice on whether you should test or not, other than using the above criteria. It is parent's responsibility to determine whether a test is needed. Some parents have, very sensibly, called 119 to ask for medical advice. This has either resulted in them booking a test - or not. However, it does depend on the overall symptoms.

If an individual shows the above symptoms at school they will be isolated and sent home. If they test negative, we carry on as normal. A positive result is likely to mean that the bubble/ year group must all isolate.

We are doing everything that we can to help to clarify this situation but ask you to understand that this is new to us also. Our staff can only advise you in line with the above criteria. If we feel that one of the symptoms above is present, we will have to send your child home.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding in this matter