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ARE YOUR MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY DETAILS UP TO DATE?

Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Dear Families,

I hope you had a lovely break together last week.

On Monday, we held our first whole school assembly in the hall! The first time we have all been together since March 2020 in one room! It was a very emotional moment for us and one we look forward to repeating so that the children get the full school experience that they have been missing out on during the pandemic. This week our roll got to 199, which is also the biggest number the school has ever held. Although this is a large number and a significant growth over the past 5 years, it's representative of the need for places within a special school setting, both in the Local Authority and also the country.

A change that happened in the holiday was around the COVID restrictions. I receive emails from the Government website regarding this and it is falling to schools to make individual and discretionary decisions. As a Special School, we have always risk assessed in line with Social care, with the vulnerability of our children and therefore we will continue with some requirements.

Therefore, I respectfully ask that if your child has symptoms or is indeed positive with COVID, that we continue with the 5 day isolation period at least, and for you to test your child. If your child is positive on an LFT, I would ask that you keep them off for the 5 days and start to test again on day 5. If they are positive on day 5, you would need to start testing from day 6. This is because although there is no longer a 'legal requirement to self-isolate', the next line within this guidance does state 'but you should stay at home'. Due to the nature of the children in our setting and our keenness to keep classes open and not have staff off ill, I respectfully ask we continue with this to Easter.



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A quote from the guidance states:

If you insist on your child attending nursery, school, or college when they have symptoms, they (the school) can take the decision to refuse your child if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect other pupils and staff from possible infection with COVID-19. Their decision would need to be carefully considered in light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

We would have the support of Public Health within our setting. We are however wanting to come out the other side of the stringent restrictions and procedures we have had in place throughout this time. Our success at keeping school open throughout the whole of the last 2 years is testament to everyone's commitment to minimising risk and adhering to risk assessments. Thank you as ever for your continued support.

We want nothing else now than to get back to what life looked like in Autumn 2019 and give our children everything they need and deserve, which includes the visits, trips and visitors!

As a reminder we have a residential leaving today until Friday this week for Key Stage 3. Please check on Twitter for any updates. The pupils are all so excited. It's fantastic to see the re-introduction of these valuable experiences for our pupils. I'd like to say a huge thank you in advance to Mrs Ferran and her team for organising, sorting, and enabling our pupils to have this experience. It really is appreciated by all concerned.

We also have World Book Day tomorrow. The theme is animals, but your child can wear whatever they feel comfortable in tomorrow, whether this is fancy dress or their own clothes. It will still be 'Dress down Friday' on Friday too, again, for those who wish to take part.

I look forward to working alongside you all again this half term and hope that the Spring weather makes a welcome return soon.

Thanks as always for your continued support.

Tracey



Mrs Tracey Smith

Head teacher



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