



Friday 7th January 2022

COVID-19 INFORMATION

You must self-isolate straight away and book a PCR test if you have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19: a high temperature, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. You must also self-isolate straight away if you've tested positive for COVID-19 by LFD test (you must book a PCR to confirm) or directly by PCR test.

If someone you live with is isolating due to testing positive, you **do not** need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- You're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- You're under 18 years, 6 months old
- You're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- You're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

If you are unsure whether you or a family member should self-isolate, please visit www.gov.uk/coronavirus or call 111 for further advice. Mr Foremen and Mrs Botzet are also available via the school office.

Happy New Year to all our families! I hope that 2022 brings more settled times for us all.

Following the mild, wet weather of last week, it has been good to return to more seasonal temperatures along with some glorious winter sunshine; signs of spring will soon be with us! The children have returned in good spirits and it is clear that they are happy to say goodbye to the Christmas festivities for another year and be back with their friends and classmates.

The new calendar year allows us to look forward, make plans and, for some, make resolutions. In assembly this morning, I talked to the children about setting goals and planning how to achieve them. Miss Black shared how she set the challenge last year to run 2021 miles (which she achieved!) and how this was approached by setting a clear plan. We have encouraged the children to think of at least one thing that they would like to set their sights on – examples could be to take up a new hobby, to learn a new skill, to achieve 100% in their AR quiz score, to arrive at school on time every day, to carry out a daily chore at home etc. Of course, for some, it may be something on a larger scale. Whatever they choose, they should be encouraged to keep going – and we would love to hear about their achievements!

Some very fortunate children received a smart watch for Christmas. It has been noticed by staff that some are receiving messages during the school day. As with phones, we do not allow the children to use electronic devices for communication purposes as it is not appropriate for a primary school learning environment. If you need your child to receive an urgent message, please call the school and ask for it to be communicated to them.

Today we say goodbye to Mrs Cope who is leaving to take up a new role. We thank her for all that she has done during her time at the school and wish her well for the future.

ATTENDANCE

This week's attendance has been 90% and does not include any Covid-related absence. I hope that it improves next week.

118 children have attended school for every possible session (excluding any absence related to Covid).

TEACHING & LEARNING

Topics for this term

Every two terms the children start exciting new topics which draw together their learning in Geography, History and Science.

We encourage them to carry out some independent learning; perhaps by a visit to the local library to see if there are any relevant information books available.

The topics for each year group are:

- Year 3 Rocks, Relics & Rumbles – all about volcanoes and the earth's layers
- Year 4 Misty Mountain, Windy River – all about rivers and mountain ranges
- Year 5 Sow, Grow & Farm – all about agriculture
- Year 6 Frozen Kingdom – all about the polar regions

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LE CLUB FRANCAIS

We are, once again, able to offer French lessons through Le Club Français, for our children. These will run on Thursday lunchtimes for the next 11 weeks. The cost is £65. If you would be interested in this opportunity for your child please complete the form attached to this newsletter.

INCLUSION TEAM NEWS

Thanks to funding from Kent County Council Reconnect, free advice clinics are available for families with or without an ASD diagnosis in the Canterbury area from January 2022.

All staff have lived experience and can help with most processes, offer strategies and understanding. The most popular topics are:

Anxiety
Diagnosis – both post and pre-diagnosis
Behaviour
Communication
Education
Emotional support for parents
Food/diet difficulties
Sensory processing
Sleep

Appointments last approximately 30-45 minutes and are carried out by Zoom (free download). Where Zoom is not available they can carry out the appointment by phone.

To book an appointment please complete and email back the Parent Information Form which you will find in the ‘Contact us’ section in the following link:

[Independent autism support service](#)

Please also visit their social media and website for testimonials and further information. They operate a waiting list at times of high demand.

They also offer a private consultancy service; please contact for further information:

Tel: 03000 110 300

SEN Surgery

Our SEN Surgery continues to be a useful resource for parents who wish to discuss the needs of their child, processes to secure additional support and information regarding assessments. The appointments are 30mins long and held over the phone hosted by three members of staff, Sammy Black (SENCO), Tracey Hewitt (SEN Assistant), Rowena in (Deputy Head Teacher for Inclusion).

We would always advise a conversation with your child’s class teacher initially to ensure that you have the full picture of how your child presents in school.

SEN Surgery runs every Wednesday afternoon this term with appointments available at 1:15pm, 1:45pm and 2:15pm. Please call the office and ask to speak to one of the hosting adults in order to book in a slot.

Online sexual harassment

Do you find it difficult to speak to your child about their online activity that could put them at risk?

The Children’s Commissioner for England has launched a guide and summary poster for parents and carers about online sexual harassment and how they can support children to stay safe online. Issues covered include: online pornography; pressure to send nude pictures; sexualised bullying; editing pictures and body image; and peer pressure. The guide includes a list of additional resources and sources of support and can be found here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_a-guide_for_parents_2021.pdf

A foreword by Dame Rachel de Souza DBE is available here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/talking-to-your-child-about-online-sexual-harassment-a-guide-for-parents/ and a poster is attached to this week’s newsletter or available here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/cco_talking_to_your_child_about_online_sexual_harassment_poster_for_parents_2021.pdf

Parent awareness seminar for Gangs, County Lines and Child Exploitation, SOS+ Programme.

www.stgilestrust.org.uk

St Giles is a trust who help people held back by poverty, exploited, abused, dealing with addiction or mental health problems, caught up in crime or a combination of these issues and others. They show people there is a way to build a better future – for themselves and those they care about – and help them create this through support, advice and training.

St Giles Trust are hosting an online webinar for FREE for parents in Kent on the 12th January 17:00- 18:00pm with a Q&A session from 18:00- 18:30pm. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Bookings and enquiries:

sospluswebinars@stgilestrust.org.uk

Mental Health Support Teams Logo Competition

The NHS and Department of Education have invited children to design a logo for the Mental Health Support Teams. They would like it to represent people working together in health and education to support children and young people with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. For more information, please see the document attached to this newsletter.

All entries should be submitted via email to england.cyp-mentalhealth@nhs.net

Action for Happiness – ‘Happier January’

How can we start this new year happier? Things have certainly not been easy over the last year, and we are still in difficult and uncertain times. The best way to try to handle our difficult

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Healthy School



emotions and experiences is by focusing on what we can control. This month, Action for Happiness are encouraging us all to focus on small steps to try to boost happiness - for yourselves and others around you - to spread kindness and hopefully inspire others to do the same. We have attached the January Calendar to this newsletter for you to enjoy at home.

#WAKEUPWEDNESDAY

At Christmas, millions of children will have excitedly ripped the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. In the guide attached to the newsletter, you'll find tips such as adjusting the screen time settings, setting windows limits and installing Xbox family settings.

INCLUSION BEAR

Patch Junior will be spending the week with Esme in 4MC after she was nominated for showing empathy and care towards a child in Year 3 who was feeling unwell – a selfless act of kindness and compassion towards a younger child.

STAR OF THE WEEK

Well done to the following children for being identified as our Stars of the Week.

3AR Lauren Cox
3BW Noah Baker
3CC Gabby Marr
3WH Elijah Alden

4HO Oscar Reeves
4IK Jake Dobson
4MC Oliver Foster
4WK Monty Hughes

5BP Raynie Hillman
5EW Arther Egerton
5JN Toby House
5PS Albert Cater

6CS Alexandru Nae
6KDO Laura Starczewska
6LS Ryan Winters
6SE Reece Wilds

Best wishes to you all for a very happy weekend.



Melody Kingman
Head Teacher

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