



Newsletter

2nd October 2020

Another very busy week in school this week and classrooms are busy and full of energy now that the children have got well engrossed in their new learning. The photos of the children engaged in their learning are wonderful and there to reassure you all that they are happy to be back in school and learning.

Bubble Closure

Unfortunately, this week we did have to close our first bubble within the school due a single positive case. This was done calmly and swiftly and in line with the guidance from the DfE and Public Health England. This bubble will reopen in school on Monday 12th October. As a note to reassure all families, the decision to close a bubble down in school is not the decision of the headteacher or one made lightly, but one made by The Department of Education and Public Health England who work very closely with the schools during this challenging time. Thank you for all your continued support that you are showing school and your positive comments.

Halloween Fun

At this time of year, we would normally be preparing for our Halloween Disco with the parent group. This is something that we are unable to offer this year, due to the restrictions of Covid. We would however like to offer the chance for the children to enjoy the fun so we are saying that all pupils can come to school on the last day of term, which is Friday 23rd October, in their Halloween fancy dress or non-uniform. We will make sure that the children get to take part in some spooky activities within their bubbles.

Fruit in school

As part of our initiative for healthy eating and also to return to a level of normality for the children, we are starting to sell fruit next week again in Key Stage 2. Children in Key Stage 1 and Foundation stage are already receiving free fruit so this does not apply to them. The fruit will be sold from their classroom and children will be asked to sanitise their hands before eating their fruit. Fruit will be 20p a day. Children will have a choice of apples, pears, carrots or bananas.

Water Bottles in School

As always, we encourage all our pupils to attend school with a water bottle in order for them to remain hydrated throughout the day. Their water bottle can be refilled throughout the day, this will sometimes be done by the staff, to keep the children safe in this current climate. The bottle should come to school in the morning filled with plain water, which is the practice in all primary settings, not with cordial or flavoured water. If your child has a medical condition related to this and this needs to be discussed further then please come to see Mrs Wilson at the main reception to complete a medical form. Thank you for your understanding. Further information about the values of drinking fresh water and the impact on learning is now available on our website

Communication with teachers

We appreciate that during these times your chances to speak to the teachers face to face are limited. We ask that if you do have concerns and need to speak to the class teacher you either email the teacher or ask them for a phone call back at the end of the day. In order to keep you informed we are trying to add as many pictures and posts as we can of the children learning on our social media sites and we will also be having a parent's evening after the half term. These meetings will be held over the phone and more information will follow.

Google Classroom

As you are no doubt aware, tighter COVID restrictions are currently in place across the country. In case we need to close down a bubble in school due to COVID, we are working with St Mary's Academy Trust to launch an excellent interactive platform called Google Classroom. This can be accessed via the internet on laptops, iPads, phones, PlayStations and games consoles using an app.

Please can you inform the school office if you would **NOT** be able to access this platform for future learning if needed.

Vision Screening Team

The Vision Screening Team will be in school on Tuesday 6th October to test our current Year 1 pupils, who have not already accessed this test through their GP. A thorough risk assessment has been shared with the school and below are the measures that they have put in place.

In response to COVID-19, we will be making the following changes in how the service is offered;

- PPE will be worn by the vision screener to see all children – this includes a mask, apron and gloves.
- PPE will be correctly disposed of by the clinician.
- Children will be taken, no more than 2 at a time, to allow for safe social distancing.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands before the vision screening test.
- Contact between the child and examiner will be kept to a minimum, children will be asked to put on the occlusive glasses for their eye test, as well as holding the matching card (if needed.)

As always, equipment will be thoroughly cleaned between each child with disinfecting wipes.

Please inform school if you do not wish your child to be tested.

Early Arrival

We are pleased to inform you that one of our staff had an early arrival last week. Mrs Nicola Cook gave birth to a little boy on Wednesday last week. He was earlier than expected and is being cared for in the hospital. Mum and baby are doing as well as can be expected and we wish James Robert Richard Cook all the very best.

Class of the Week

As one of our new incentives this year we have a Class of the Week award. This is presented on a Friday to the class in school who have had the most positive comments made about them. These are comments from all the staff including dinner staff and office staff. The class that have made the biggest impact in school that week will be awarded with a trophy to keep for the week and a bag of treats for them to enjoy individually.

Our Class of the Week is **Year 5! Well done to you all.**



Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Mrs T Gulliver

Mrs T Gulliver,
Headteacher.