



Newsletter 2nd July 2021

Well, this week has been a week of events at The Mill. We started the week with excitement for our Year 6 pupils which quickly turned to disappointment when their residential site cancelled their visits. However, through multiple phone calls, lots of stress and staff in school changing their plans we have secured a new date for the pupils to go and enjoy their long awaited few days of fun.

We are quickly coming to the end of this term, and I think we are all ready for the summer and some down time. It will also be my time to leave the school completely. Mrs Chambers is very excited to start her work with you all and the pupils at The Mill. Along with the staff, Mrs Chambers has been getting some fantastic new ideas together for the next academic year. It is an exciting time for school, and I look forward to hearing about all your future successes.

Covid - rising figures

As you will all now be aware we have currently had to close our Year 3 bubble due to a positive case. Our staff and pupils are working from home now until the end of the isolation period. I was contacted last night by the Local Authority and asked to share their growing concerns over the infection rate again in Barnsley.

Information from Barnsley Local Authority.

Current situation

The case rate in Barnsley has risen significantly over the past week or so, with cases being concentrated in the unvaccinated age ranges which has proved a particular challenge for schools, this coupled with the increase in social mixing and the emergence of the Delta variant has meant we are now dealing with a number of outbreaks in Barnsley schools.

Isolation

A number of schools have reported issues with children isolating. As a reminder, please make sure that you are clear with your communications that if a child has symptoms and is awaiting a test result, their whole household should be isolating. Please be clear that if they are a contact only they need to isolate. There is no test or amount of testing that can allow someone to break isolation. Please remind pupils that when they are isolating they should not leave the home and if they are a contact even though household members do not need to isolate, they should not have visitors in their home. In the past I have offered COVID marshals to support you with children breaking isolation, but unfortunately with the rise in cases their workload has also increased dramatically so have less ability to help, so all I can ask is that you do as much as is reasonable to do.

Sports Day information.

As we have now arranged a fun/sports day for all our classes, here is some more information for you.

Please send £1.50 for your child to the class or the school office. This will be recorded on a class list. This will help towards our parents' group providing a goodie bag for every child with a drink of juice, some sweets and a fruit skewer in it. Also, with the teaching staff every child will have the opportunity to play name the teddy and guess how many sweets in a jar?

Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide any refreshments for spectators, so please bring a drink with you. We are setting up an area just for spectators as we will not be mingling spectators with the children. Please help us to abide by these rules and keep everyone safe. The last thing we want is an increase in positive Covid case numbers because we will all have to isolate at the start of our holidays. Thank you.

Monday 5th July

9.30-10.30 Foundation Stage 1 am session (30 hour funded children will take part in both FS1 sessions)

10.45-11.45 Year 4

1.30-2.30 Year 6

Tuesday 6th July

9.30-10.30 Year 1

10.45-11.45 Year 2

1.30-2.30 Foundation Stage 1 pm session

Wednesday 7th July

9.30-10.30 Foundation Stage 2

10.45-11.45 Year 3

1.30-2.30 Year 5

Headlice

Could we please ask parents to continue to check their child's hair for headlice as we have had several cases in school. The chemical shampoo that can be bought from the chemist, work to kill the live lice, but they do not kill what is inside the eggs. So, if there are eggs these will hatch and have the same problem. It is cheaper to use conditioner to comb through the hair every other day to get the live ones and the eggs out. **This is usually a 2-week cycle.**

Reports

I am in the process of reading and commenting on your child's end of year report. This will be presented to you on **Friday 9th July**. The format of the report this year provides you with a personal evaluation of their attitudes, successes, and relationships in class. Coming out of another difficult year in schools these reports are a delight to read and show resilience and bravery of our pupils so well done.

Beat the Street

Well, wow, you are amazing! The engagement with families this year has been amazing. The children in school are enjoying the fun of the event and using this as a short break from their learning in the afternoon. Please keep an eye on the leadership board. The competition is not over yet!

Yours sincerely



Mrs T Gulliver
Deputy Chief Executive
St Mary's Academy Trust.