

5th March 2021

Dear Parents,

If you haven't already done so, please read my letter from Tuesday about the return to school. Please also read the letter about lateral flow tests which I sent earlier today. I have had a few queries about this, so please note: the lateral flow testing is optional (but is a way of finding out if you have Covid but are asymptomatic). Also, people who have been vaccinated can also use these tests as they can still catch and pass on Covid.

I have posted a video onto Google Classroom and Tapestry which the children may find reassuring. I, for one, am really looking forward to getting back into some sort of "normal" routine. The last few months have been difficult on many levels. I have been at school working each day and my husband has been teaching his college students from home, mostly unable to see what our three children have been getting up to during the day! I have returned home in the evening on many an occasion to find them all still in their pyjamas and I won't tell you the number of texts I have received in the mornings asking why they aren't in their registration (due to sleeping in!!) My youngest (Year 6) would prefer to keep having her lessons lying on her bed in her pyjamas and so is not at all looking forward to the formality of school. I suspect many of our children might feel the same! I'm hopeful that once all the children are back in the familiarity of their school setting and with their friends and our lovely staff, they will be delighted to be back! The staff certainly cannot wait!

World Book Day

We had a lovely array of costumes in school on Thursday from those children who were here and I believe there were also lots online! Lots of fun activities were enjoyed. Thanks to Mrs Koumpi for organising the quiz and supporting the staff with their planning for this. My favourite book is Mr Messy, not just because I am quite messy, but because I love how Mr Neat and Mr Tidy come and fix everything to make it look perfect. Fortunately I have a few Ms Neats and Ms Tidys on the staff to keep me in check!!

A huge thank you to one of our mums, Anna Venus who organised the World Book Day Competition. I have been sent all the entries, these have been short listed and now I have been tasked with choosing a winner for each category! These will be announced next week. I have had a quick peep and am amazed at what I have seen so far! Well done everyone who took part. This raised a brilliant £381.19 – thank you all!

Things to remember for Monday

1. **School Dinners** – The school kitchen will be operating as normal and so please ensure you have booked your child's meal on SchoolGrid for each day. Juniors need to pay in advance on ParentPay. If you're bringing a packed lunch, don't forget that!
1. **Water bottle** – Don't forget to bring it in to school (ideally labelled with your child's name).
2. **Pencil Case** – If your child's is at home, bring it in and make sure it has a pencil, pen, glue stick, rubber, coloured pencils (& anything else your child usually needs).
3. **School Work book** – If your child has been working in an exercise book, please send it in so we can see their work.
4. **School uniform** – Full school uniform is to be worn every day (except PE days). If your child's class has forest school, you will receive a text to advise wearing suitable clothes for that (it's often also posted on Google Classroom when the homework is posted). If your child's school shoes don't fit, trainers will be fine until shops open fully again.
5. **Kitchen Towels** – If you're able to bring in a pack of kitchen rolls, please do so to help keep our supplies up. Thank you!

Diary Date: Comic Relief Day – Friday 19th March

Wear something funny for money this day. You can be as crazy as you like – crazy hair, funny clothes – it's up to you and bring a donation for Comic Relief – suggested amount £1.

Don't throw waste in Conway pond!

Some of you will have heard that the heron, who was a regular visitor to Conway pond, unfortunately drowned last week after getting caught up in netting that had been thrown in there. If you walk through the pond, please talk to your child about the importance of not leaving litter lying around.

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing you all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on Monday morning!

Kind regards,

Kate Baptiste
Headteacher