

14th January 2022

Dear Parents

Change to covid guidance – From Monday, if anyone tests negative on the morning of day 5 and then 24 hours later, negative again on the morning of day 6, they can return to school/work on day 6 if they are feeling well (with day 1 being the day after the first test was done – the test day is day zero).

Pupil Attendance – You should have received your child's attendance report for the autumn term. "Good" attendance is officially when your child is in school 96% or more. Children may be absent for a variety of very justifiable reasons, at the moment it is mostly due to covid or self isolation. However, we have an increasing number of children who are regularly off school for the odd day here and there and this is leading to high absence figures. Healthy children should not need days off every few weeks. Check your child's attendance and see if there is anything that can be improved.

Request for absence from school – If your child has a planned hospital or other medical appointment, you must send in proof of the appointment with a request for absence a week before the appointment is due to take place. The "request for time off school" form can be found on our website <https://www.st-monicas.enfield.sch.uk/parents/forms/>. Routine dental appointments need to be made during the school holidays. If a medical appointment has been made in an emergency, just email the school office to explain what time your child needs to be picked up or will be dropped off late and whether or not they will be in for lunch (if they have a school dinner).

Punctuality – There are still as many as 20 children arriving to school after the gates close at 9am. By the time they walk to their classroom, hang up their coat and wash their hands, the lessons have already started. This is disruptive to the class and unsettling for the child arriving late. If a child is 10 minutes late every day, that's nearly an hour of learning time lost per week! Please be on time!

Safety – Following on from my message last term about magnetic beads, I wanted to forward you a message I received from one of our parents, Geraldine Cosh who works in this field. She says, *"I have worked with the government on magnetic beads and they did release an alert in May: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-safety-alert-issued-for-small-high-powered-magnetic-products> Unfortunately incidents are going up due to a challenge on tik tok and due to COVID/ lock down (being at home more) and it is not just young children who are swallowing these.*

Another one to be cautious of are button and coin batteries. If ingested they cause internal bleeding and there have been more fatalities with these products than magnets (they are both as bad as each other though) and again there has been an increase of these incidents during lockdown. I completed a webinar with CAPT (child accident prevention trust) last month that highlight these issues <https://www.capt.org.uk/event/dangerous-toys>"

Assemblies – On Tuesday Mrs Weston read a story to the infant children called "Have you filled a bucket today?" by Carol McCloud. She spoke to the children about being a 'bucket filler' and not a 'bucket dipper'. Everyone carries an invisible bucket and when we feel happy our bucket is full and sad when our bucket is empty. We can be a bucket filler by being loving, caring and kind to those around us. Ask your child if they have filled someone's bucket this week!

Kitchen Towels – If any of you could send in a pack of kitchen towels it would be much appreciated. To keep surfaces and hands clean and to avoid spreading the virus, we use kitchen towels to dry hands and clean tables, so we go through a lot every day. Thank you in anticipation of your usual generosity.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Kate Baptiste
Headteacher