



Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope that you managed to have a happy and restful holiday? I am sorry to hear that a number of families (and staff) were ill with Covid over the break: if this was the case, I hope that you are feeling much better now?

It has been lovely being back at school and although there are a number of children absent, it has been a good start for those that are here to 2022.

Dates for next week

Monday 10 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current Nursery children return to school• Year 6 taking part in Animal Workshop in school• NB After school clubs do not start this week but there will be Extended Club every night until 5.45pm
Tuesday 11 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Nursery children will begin from today on a staggered start – teachers will inform families which day
Wednesday 12 th January	
Thursday 13 th January	
Friday 14 th January	

News

Staff Changes

Daisy's Year 4 Class

Daisy Curry has now started her maternity leave and Shakira Vaz will be teaching her Year 4 Class. Unfortunately, Shakira currently has Covid and is feeling quite unwell. We very much hope that she will be back next week, but

we will obviously update the class and parents when we know more. We welcome Shakira to our team and hope she is feeling much better very soon

Eucalyptus Class

Nalini is sadly still unwell after her fall last term and so I am sorry to say, she will not be in school at least for this month. We are pleased to say that we have managed to secure an experienced teacher Jayne Catt who taught the class last term and will work closely with Grace, Dionne and Lin.

Reading and the teaching of phonics

Parents of children in Reception and Year 1 will have received a letter today about changes to our organisation of Reading within the school.

Following an update from the Department for Education around phonics teaching we have changed our Phonics scheme to 'Essential Letters and Sounds' - a phonics programme based on 'Letters and Sounds' (2007). This new phonics programme will hopefully support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers.

There is a strict routine expected for those following the phonics scheme and so in line with that all children across the school will now be changing their reading books once a week on **Fridays**, starting from next Friday.

Covid

Covid

Cases of Covid continue to rise and various children, families and staff have tested positive over the holiday – some for the second, third or even fourth time.

Children testing positive

If your child has any of the three key symptoms of a high temperature, a new and persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell, please book your child for a PCR test.

If you have Lateral Flow Tests at home, you can of course use a LFT and from next Tuesday, if this is positive, your child has to isolate at home.

Self-isolation

The isolation time is still 10 days unless you have had at least 2 vaccines or are a child. In which case, you may be able to leave isolation after Day 7 if you:

- a) Do not have a temperature and
- b) Take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) on Day 6 and Day 7 (24 hours apart) and they are both negative.

Close contacts testing positive

If a member of the household or a close contact test positive, children may do a Lateral Flow Test each day; and providing they are negative, the child may still attend school

Latest DFE Guidance for schools regarding Covid

The latest guidance was issued last weekend. It does not affect primary schools as much as secondary schools, but we ask the following:

- All adults wear masks when they are in the playground at the beginning and end of the day
- All adults wear masks in the school office and keep socially distanced
- If Nursery parents need to pop inside with their child at the beginning or end of the day, we also request that you wear a mask at all times inside the building

Reminders

PE

PE lessons will return to normal next week and PE days have not changed, so please remember that children should wear PE Kits to school on their PE day and they do not have to bring in their school uniform.

Uniform

May I remind parents that full uniform should be worn every day – including black leather school shoes (not trainers or football boots) and school ties in Key Stage 2. Socks or tights should be plain grey or plain black and long hair should be tied back.

Water Bottles

Each child should have a water bottle in school. The water fountains are still not in use (to reduce the risk of spreading infection) and we encourage the children to drink water throughout the day



Stars of the Week



Teachers from Reception – Year 6 all chose their whole class as their 'stars' – read below why!

Class	
Anna's Reception	Well done for having a positive start to the term. You have all settled in straight away and followed the classroom expectations. You have all enjoyed seeing your friends again and playing with them.
Kripali's Reception	Well done for settling in so well, remembering our classroom promises and being enthusiastic about your learning! Keep it up

Laura's Year 1	Well done for such a wonderful start to the term. We love the way you started the term's learning with such enthusiasm and great participation!
Alexa's Y1	Well done for coming back with a big smile and a positive attitude to learning. I have loved seeing you all- what a great start to the term!
Katie's Y2	It was lovely to see you so excited to be back at school with your friends. You reflected well on all the things you achieved last year and made brilliant resolutions for 2022.
Phoebe's Y2	Well done for coming back with such lovely manners, kind words and positive attitude towards learning.
Pippa's Y3	I have been so impressed with my class's enthusiasm for learning after the holidays! A great start to the term.
Joy's Y3	You have come back to school with a focused attitude, lots of questions and excitement for a new term, great work everyone
Emma's Y4	I have been so impressed with my class's enthusiasm for learning after the holidays! A great start to the term.
Daisy's Y4 (Shakira)	Nana on behalf of Shakira has noticed how kind and respectful all the children have been the first couple of days back. Well done Year 4!
Francesca's Y5	Well done for being able to recall key facts and phrases from last half term.
Becky's Y5	Well done everyone for an excellent first few days back. I have loved seeing your focus, concentration and dedication towards your learning
Russell's Y6	You have all come back with such a positive and happy attitude. It has been a really lovely start to the term, well done!
Tim & Mary's Y6	An excellent first few days back - punctual, wearing the correct uniform and focused on your learning. Keep it up!

Many congratulations to all our classes for a great start to term!

And finally...

It has been a positive few days. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a busy term ahead!
In the meantime, have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes,
Katy Blackler