



PLATT BRIDGE COMMUNITY SCHOOL | MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

PROMOTES | BELIEF | CREATES | SUCCESS

Executive Headteachers Easter Half Term Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were delighted to welcome all children back on Monday 8th March. Whilst visiting classrooms this half term, it has been great to hear, first-hand from the children, how glad they are to be back in school with their friends and teachers. We have adapted our curriculum offer to ensure children have more opportunities to be active and socialise in school.

I was delighted to see so many children, both at home and in school, taking part in World Book Day (4th March 2021) and National Maths Day. World Book Day was filled with fun and enjoyable activities that the children took part in both remotely and in school.

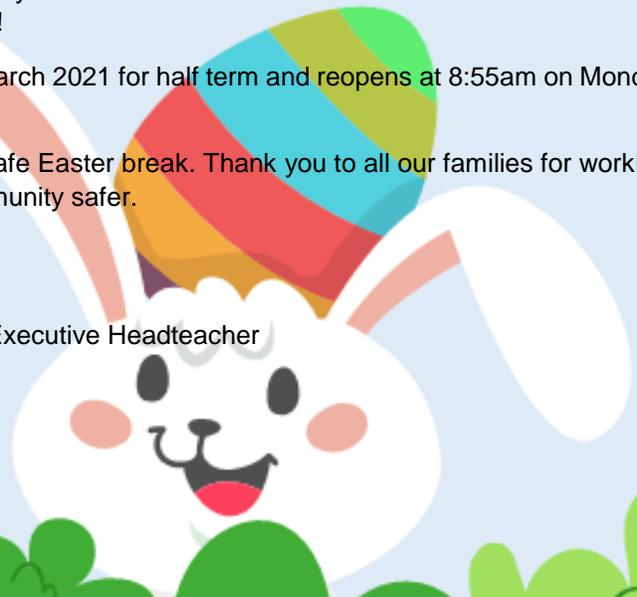
To celebrate the return of all children to school (8th March) and to combine World Book Day (4 March) and Comic Relief (19 March) we held a whole school Superheroes Day! It was amazing to see so many children (and staff) dressed in their favourite superhero costumes. During the day children learned about who our everyday superheroes are, what they are like, and how to be more like an everyday superhero themselves.

As we approach the Easter break, it has been a very busy term for our staff and children and we look forward to this chance to relax and hopefully spend some time outdoors!

Key Date reminder - school closes on Wednesday 31st March 2021 for half term and reopens at 8:55am on Monday 19th April 2021.

I would like to wish you and your families a Happy and Safe Easter break. Thank you to all our families for working with us during school closures. Your help has made our community safer.

Sue Darbyshire
Chief Executive Officer | National Leader of Education | Executive Headteacher



National day of reflection | Wear it Yellow day



A national Day of Reflection was held on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 to mark the anniversary of the UK's first Covid lockdown. A minute's silence was held nationally and virtually in school, giving us the opportunity to reflect and remember all those who we have lost to coronavirus. Children and Staff paid their respects and marked the occasion by wearing something yellow to school.

Comic Relief Superheroes Day



Nursery Places | FREE Nursery Places

The closing date for Nursery places for September 2021 is approaching

Please [click here](#) for more information or contact the school office on (01942 487999). For further information regarding **FREE** eligibility nursery places for 2 year olds please [click here](#).

Apply for a reception class place for September 2021 | New Intake Information

If your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017, they will start Reception class at the start of the new school year in September 2021.

The deadline for applications for September 2021 was Friday 15 January 2021. Wigan Council will send offers of places to those who applied on-time on National Offer Day which is 16th April 2021.

Applying late means you have less chance of getting your preferred school. If you still need to apply for a place [click here](#)

We will be in touch with families joining our Sept 2021 Reception class when we return to share new intake information etc.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

The Government has announced that it is extending the Covid Winter Grant Scheme (CWGS) to the 16th April to cover the upcoming Easter holiday period. The CWGS funding is administered by Wigan Council to support families and other households through the winter months.

Easter Holidays

With the additional funding, support will be provided for means-tested Free School Meal Families over the 2-week Easter Holidays as follows: £15 per child per week

How Support will be provided

Wigan Council will be contacting all qualifying families directly. Payment will be made directly into parents' bank accounts or Aldi Food Vouchers will be provided.

Other households

Support for other families and households is available through our wider welfare offer. Please click on the link: www.wigan.gov.uk/localwelfaresupport for further information.

Engage with Community Covid-19 Testing

If you need reassurance, our families can now order Covid-19 lateral flow test kits for the whole family to use at home. You can order postal kits by clicking [here](#) or find your nearest collection centre by clicking [here](#). Government information page on home testing can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Thank you for Helping with our Drop Off and Collection procedures

We all need to do everything we can to keep our community safe.

1. Be Symptom Aware. Key symptoms remain:
 - ✓ High temperature and fever.
 - ✓ New and continuous cough.
 - ✓ Loss of taste or smell.

If anybody in your family has these symptoms, you need to isolate and get the symptomatic person tested

2. Help Out at Drop Off and Collection times. Polite reminders:
 - ✓ 1 adult per child to limit crowd size (where possible).
 - ✓ Maintaining social distancing (even outdoors).
 - ✓ Adults wearing face coverings at drop off and collection times.

What is Easter?

The week leading up to Easter Sunday is known as Holy Week. It consists of:

Palm Sunday - this day marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where he was greeted by crowds who shouted praise and waved palm branches.

Holy Monday - some observe the anointing of Jesus at Bethany on this day.

Holy Tuesday - some observe Jesus' predictions of his own death on this day.

Holy Wednesday - also known as Spy Wednesday, this day marks Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

Maundy Thursday - when Jesus and his disciples shared the Last Supper.

Good Friday - the day Jesus was crucified.

Easter Sunday - the day of Jesus' resurrection.-



Staff Twice Weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) – Covid Testing

- ▶ Please be aware that an in school facility for Staff Lateral Flow Testing is now up and running. All staff are now undertaking twice weekly LFD tests and contacts of positive cases will be informed and required to self-isolate at home keeping everyone in school and our community safe.



- ▶ On a daily basis the staff in school see what children have in their lunchboxes whilst supervising in the dining hall some parents/carers have however asked school to report on what children eat / do not eat each day. We have therefore decided that pupils on packed lunches will be asked to take the contents of their lunch boxes home each day so parents/carers are aware of what has (or has not) been eaten.

Easter Activities for Children

You needn't be stuck for ideas to keep the children entertained....

- ✓ Chick Paper Plate Sewing Project – this is a great fine motor Easter activity too!
 - ✓ Paper Roll Chicks
 - ✓ Peek-a-Boo Chicks – kids would love making these and playing with them after!
 - ✓ Handprint Chick puppets – we love these handprint chicks! You could also easily paint and make handprints on a card too.
 - ✓ Handprint and Footprint Chick – these are so cute! Make these as an adorable
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- ✓ cotton ball bunny cards are fun to make and kids will love giving these as Easter cards!
 - ✓ Toilet paper roll bunny craft. A fun way to re-use paper rolls!



[TENTATIVE] Community Library reopening date



- ▶ Wigan Council are working towards a re-opening date of 12th April for all community libraries including Platt Bridge – more details will follow in line with the Governments reopening Roadmap.

Platt Bridge Community School Foodbank

As you are aware we operate a foodbank for any member of our community who needs help. If you need help with a food parcel please speak to one of our pastoral staff who will be more than pleased to help you.

Up to date Contact Information

As there may be occasions when the school needs to contact parents or carers during the school day, it is vital that you inform school immediately if there are any changes to emergency contact details or home telephone/mobile numbers Please kindly keep school updated of any change via email.

