

END OF TERM NEWSLETTER

Although this is an end of year newsletter, this first section discusses what the possible arrangements will be when the new school year starts regarding Covid-19.

The forthcoming relaxation of almost all measures to combat the spread of Covid happens against a backdrop of rapidly increasing infections, with even the government predicting in excess of 100,000 new cases per day by August. The DFE have published information signalling the end of the Bubble System, at the end of this term.

At the start of September, the current bubble arrangements will end and should a child in a year group test positive, it will remain open, whereas currently all children have to self-isolate for 10 days.

The very large majority of our children in school have not yet had Covid-19 and have not been vaccinated. It looks very likely that, when we return in September, that Covid-19 infection rates will be very high nationally.

Although, the risk of serious illness and death to children is extremely low, “Long Covid” is now recognised as being a problem for 10-20% of children. This means that they have on-going symptoms for weeks, months or longer after the initial illness. In our school 20% equates to over 50 children, who may be at risk of Long Covid. This is a significant number and makes it important that as a school we continue to take measures to restrict the spread of Covid-19 as much as we can.

Plans are being drawn up to operate a “hybrid” bubble system in school in an attempt to minimise the risk to children and to any Clinically Extremely Vulnerable staff, parents, grandparents or other family members. It will include updated start and end of day entry and exit procedures and ways to reduce the free mixing of children in different year groups during the school day. Some of the procedures that are currently in place will remain, some will be modified and some will be removed.

A few of the procedures that we have adopted during Covid will remain because they have other advantages to the children’s education and the organisation of the school. An example of this will be that we will continue to allow children to come to school in their P.E. kit when they are having this lesson.

The updated procedures will be published via the mobile app in the week before the start of the new term. It will also be posted on the school website. It will take into account any potential changes in government policy between now and the start of September. Please look out for this information, and take careful note of it when it is published.

To help you with your arrangements for the new school year, the staggered start and end times to the day will be removed, unless there is new government guidance to say that they should continue. The school day will return to starting at 9.00 a.m. and end at 3.15 p.m. for all children.

SCHOOL TERM DATES:

School closes for the Summer Holiday on Tuesday 20th July 2021. The usual Bubble closure times will apply. The new school year will begin at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st September 2021.

The additional 2022 Bank Holiday on Monday 3rd June to mark the Queen's 70th Jubilee which falls during the Summer Half-Term Holiday period means that the school will now close at the end of the day on Thursday 26th May 2022 rather than Friday 27th May 2022, as originally published.

SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY FROM SEPTEMBER 2021:

During the disruption caused by Covid-19 in the past 18 months, the school's uniform policy has been relaxed in recognition of the pressures placed on families to buy items of uniform etc.

The Uniform Policy will be fully operational again from the start of the next school year. Please support our expectations. Please remember that the rules on footwear have been updated so that black, waterproof trainers may be worn in addition to shoes. Trainers with any coloured stripes, markings or logos on them are not allowed, and we ask that branded trainers e.g. Nike, Adidas etc. are not worn as part of daily uniform. They may only be worn on days when your child is doing P.E.

Earrings must be small, round stud-type in design, and other items of jewellery such as rings, bracelets and necklaces are not allowed.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS VOUCHERS

A one-off voucher payment of £90 per child will be made on or after Friday 23rd July. This is intended to cover the child's lunchtime meal for the period up to school opening again on Wednesday 1st September.

Any issues with the vouchers will need to be taken up with Edenred.

GOODBYE TO REVEREND DAN:

We say goodbye to Reverend Dan Cook at the end of this term, when he and his family move to a new ministry in Stockport. Rev. Dan has been a regular feature of the life of the school over the past few years, by leading assemblies, attending and leading the Good News Club and generally supporting the staff and children of the school in a positive and caring way. This has been much-appreciated. He will be greatly missed and we wish both him and his family every success in their new challenge.

STAFF NEWS

The Governing Board of the school have confirmed the permanent appointments of Mrs Burns as Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Gorman as Assistant Headteacher following their respective roles in an Acting capacity.

Miss Jackson will be beginning her maternity leave from the start of September. She will be replaced by Miss Fogarty, who will be taking up her first teaching appointment. Miss Fogarty spent a considerable amount of time with us last year as part of her professional training, and we are very pleased that she will be joining us in the E.Y.F.S. next year.

