



Where Children Come First

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Afternoon all,

COVID update: After having been in the Oxfordshire Headteacher Covid briefing this morning and seeing the marked rise in cases in children of primary age and indeed school staff in the county and listening to the warning shots from Kevin Gordon, the Corporate Director of Children's Services and Ansa Azhar, the Corporate Director of Public Health, it is time to tighten our belt straps again so that school life is not disrupted going forward. The run up to Christmas is going to see a further rise in cases and we need to mitigate spread of infection as much as possible as a school community.

As you know, we have had cases dotted around the school but have managed to contain spread because we are not mixing as a school. We will continue that as it is working right now. It is important that we go into half term break without cases. The low numbers of cases would not be so without your commitment and support in taking your child/ren for PCRs and keeping them isolated when there are family cases – the virus would have spread like wildfire through the school if you had not and were not so vigilant.

So, we are starting this week – as I do not want to compromise the half term break.

Face Masks: More and more of you are choosing not to wear masks on the school site. Can I remind you to wear masks on school site – please do so.

Message from Mr Duffy our new Chair of PTFA: I have been so eager to get the fundraising wagon started this week via the Hooley and am delighted with your monetary contributions for the PTFA so far – Thank You. The contribution for fancy dress and Halloween themed day is £2. I am hoping that you can donate the £2 so that we can bring in some cash for school projects. Thank you all and Thank You to PTFA members for your support and contributions. The PTFA did an incredible job to raise money last year, in **very** difficult times. However, there is no denying that COVID has hit our usual fundraising targets HARD. We will continue to adapt our events to the current climate and hope that we will have your continued support. The money raised from the PTFA is there solely to improve the resourcing and opportunities for your children and quite simply the more we raise, the more we can offer them. Having been on the 'other side' of the school, I know first-hand how expensive school resources are; no one out there is doing schools any favours, so please dig deep this year as I have a list of 'must-haves' for our children - as long as my arm - from Ms Boswell!



Halloween festivities: The PTFA After-school Halloween Hooley on Thursday is cancelled. However, we will have a Halloween Hooley day in school and put on some Halloween fun themed activities during the day that will take place in bases. Contributions of £2 will be still gratefully received as we have paid the for Hooley bits 'n' bobs already. The tuck shop (your child can bring in cash for that) will still be available for Year 1 – 6 children as will the hotdogs. Foundation Stage children will receive treats from PTFA. Student Council will also run the pumpkin carving competition and announce the winners of fancy dress and pumpkin carving. Face painting is permitted for the day. If your child does not want to dress up that's fine, no pressure. It will; be great to give the children a treat day after a long term.

X country runners will be out for the morning but will be able to take part in the activities etc during the afternoon.

LFT Tests: Staff are still testing twice weekly and going for PCRs when there are cases in their base. It is important that everybody over 11 years of age have regular Lateral Flow Tests. If



you have a case in the class or your close family – continue to take your child for a PCR. The 5 -10 days after a positive case in a class or family are crucial for the virus to show its ugly head in close contacts, so please continue your vigilance.

The **Whole School Harvest** Assembly in the hall will not go ahead but we will go virtual with it on Friday. The conker competition will take place in a covid safe environment this week too.

The Grange Foodbank donations: please send in your donations so that we can get started on supporting vulnerable families.

I want to reiterate how important it is to keep COVID out of school. The children have so much catch-up learning to get through and school disruption would be disastrous running up to Christmas. If you can read with your child as much as possible and practise phonic sounds (FS and KS1) that would be so handy.

Colds and upset tummies are rife at school – please reinforce the washing of hands with your child and remind them to keep a distance from each other.

Some of our families have been hit hard by the spread of Covid throughout their family – with individuals feeling very unwell - I want to send you our best wishes and hope you have a speedy recovery all.

Take care folks and don't forget:

- Keep yourself and others safe
- Get vaccinated
- Let fresh air in if you are meeting indoors – meeting outdoors is safer
- Wear a face covering: COVID-19 spreads through the air by droplets and aerosols that are exhaled from the nose and mouth of an infected person. You should wear face coverings in crowded and enclosed areas where you come into contact with people you do not usually meet.
- Get tested and self-isolate if required
- Sanitise

Best wishes



Ms Boswell
Headteacher

