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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new half term.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week after the half term break. We hope everyone has had a good restful break and enjoyed time together with family and friends.

We have seen a keenness to come back to school and for children to see their friends and spend time in their classroom. It's the time for changing learning journeys and themes of learning, which is always exciting. Consistency between classrooms across the school is strong so this helps to reduce cognitive load for the children. If you feel your child is struggling at all, either academically or socially, please do let us know so we can help. Please remember to send your child's teacher a Dojo message if you have a query at all. To ensure staff wellbeing please do not always expect an immediate response. Teachers are generally available to answer queries during their day between 8am and 5:30pm. It is up to individual staff if they reply or acknowledge messages outside of these times.

I hope you can all get out and enjoy the dry weather this weekend between the weekend routines of reading practice, homework and varying clubs and family events. (Not forgetting the household chores we all end up doing of course!) We look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.

Year 6 Residential

We are delighted that the Year 6 children will this year be participating in a residential visit to London in the summer term. Thank you to everyone for signing up and paying deposits for this truly wonderful experience. The children will really love spending time together at some incredible places; Legoland, an evening theatre show, seeing the key sights of London on a walking tour and going to the Natural History Museum. It will be an incredible experience for everyone 😊

This year, to develop the financial understanding of the children, we have set up a school bank that the children will be actively engaged in as part of this visit. There will be more information coming home with the children about this early next week. Please keep an eye out for this.

Outdoor Play Equipment



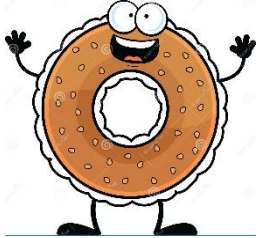
Children across the school are enjoying the use of new play equipment as part of their play time and lunch time offer. In order to ensure equity the classes have different timeslots through the week so everyone has quality play time. We are looking to further enhance the outside spaces as time progresses this year.

The school council will enjoy finding out about children's interests and ideas.

Coats, Hats and Scarves

As we go into the winter months, please can we remind everyone to dress appropriately for school. Please ensure that all items brought into school are clearly labelled with names so any lost items can be returned.

If anyone has any coats, hats, scarves or gloves that children have outgrown, we would be delighted to receive these at school for the winter clothes rack in the school entrance foyer. These are available for any families who are in financial difficulty at the present time. If you need any further support, please do see Miss Greenhalgh who will be able to support further.



Bagels

From this half term, every child will be offered a serving of bagel each morning on entry to school. This is part of the schools commitment to ensure every day each child starts their day with a nice full tummy and the energy for their busy day ahead. There are gluten free and allergy options available. We do hope the children enjoy having this to start their day.

Reading Café's

Reading Café's start next week. This is an opportunity to come into school and enjoy some time reading different materials with your child. There will be opportunities to find out about class reading expectations for individual year groups and the importance of regular reading. Not just from school reading books, but in other forms too. Teas, coffees and biscuits available. School Governors will also be in attendance at many of the sessions too. We are really looking forward to welcoming you into school. ☺

Mobile Phones:

We are aware some children bring their mobile telephone to school with them, as they travel to and from school on their own. Mobile phones in this situation are a safety mechanism and are useful. However, during the school days mobile phones are NOT permitted to be in the possession of a child.

On entry to school in the morning, we ask children with a phone to turn the phone off, or put it on silent on entry to the classroom. The children then need to hand their phone in to the teacher. Mobile phones are placed into a zipped case for the day, with the child's name on it, so phones are secure and protected. Once the register is complete the mobile phones are taken to the school office, where they are kept for the day. The mobile phones are returned to the classroom at the end of the day, ready for the children to take home with them. If the children are at clubs the phones stay in the zipped wallet and box, in the office, until the end of club. We hope this reassures you that the phones are kept safe and the children do not have access to technology or personal devices during the day.

Working Together to Improve School Attendance

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. For some children, attending school every day will be harder than for others. This is why schools, and local councils in some cases, are committed to working together with families to solve problems and support your child's school attendance.

New guidance to schools and local councils mean that students will be better supported to be in school and attend regularly. Schools will be supported to analyse their data and offer assistance to those families who need it quicker.

The Department for Education has amended the framework for the issuing of penalty notices in relation to unauthorised absence. Whilst it is expected that schools support families, if the support is not engaged with, schools will be able to apply for penalty notices to be issued to families for unauthorised absence. This may be due to students arriving significantly late to school, schools not being informed of the reasons for a student being absent, or schools not agreeing with the reason for the absence. In the event of unauthorised holidays in term time, the support element would not be offered.

In addition, the cost of Truancy Penalty Notices has risen to £160 per parent, per child (reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days for a first incidence). If a second penalty notice is issued within a rolling three-year period, the notice is now at the £160 rate. No penalty notice will be issued for a third time. In that event, the absence would be considered for prosecution.

For more details please click [here](#).



School Nursing Appointments

On Monday 18th November, the School Nursing team are on site for bookable appointments regarding your child and any health needs, e.g. toileting, constipation, diet, growth, sleep, etc... Please see Miss Greenhalgh or Mrs Jones to book an appointment time.

First Aid

In school we administer First Aid as an initial response to an incident or accident within school. This results in different types of first aid being administered. It might be an ice pack, an antiseptic wipe, a wipe and a plaster or dressing. On occasions we have to apply a sling or bandage or we have to telephone emergency services for incidents such as significant injury or seizure. We keep you informed of the treatment of the injury or the incident via an email that is sent to you and text messages for bumps. If a plaster or dressing is applied, it is important that this is removed and appropriate cleansing and care is given at home. We are limited in what we can use in school, however at home creams such as Savalon may be applied and a clean plaster to help the healing and recovery. Please always check injuries as soon as possible at home. Thank you.



Medical Records

It is really important that if your child's medical needs change, school is kept informed. It is a parent / carer responsibility to alert the school to any change in circumstance.

Please ensure you do this to keep the records up-to-date and to ensure your child's needs can be treated appropriately during the school day.

This not only relates to medication, but also dietary allergies. Many thanks.

Illnesses including Covid

Respiratory infections, including the common cold and COVID-19, are common in children and young people, particularly during the winter months. For most children and young people, these illnesses will not be serious, and they will soon recover following rest and plenty of fluids. Routine testing for Covid-19 ended in April 2022 and UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) guidance says that it is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. But as the winter months kick in, your child may be showing symptoms that leave you wondering whether they can go to school. Attending school and college is hugely important for children and young people's health, wellbeing and their future. Here's what you need to know:

As COVID-19 presents a low risk to children and young people, combined with high vaccination rates in the population, there are no longer specific rules relating to it in schools, colleges, childcare and other education settings. Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to go to school, college or childcare. However, those who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.

All children and young people with respiratory symptoms should be encouraged to cover their mouth and nose with a disposable tissue when coughing and/or sneezing and to wash their hands after using or disposing of tissues. It can be difficult to know when to seek help if your child is unwell. If you are worried about your child, especially if they are aged under 2 years old, then you should seek medical help.

UKHSA guidance says that it is not recommended that children and young people are tested for COVID-19 unless directed to by a health professional. For children and young people aged 18 and under who are recommended to take a COVID-19 test by a health professional and test positive, the advice is to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for three days. This is because children and young people tend to be infectious to other people for less time than adults.

Dates coming up:

More dates will be added as the term progresses. Please check the dates coming up weekly too as well as all the dates below.

Date	Event	Year Group	Details / Special Arrangements
Week 2 – National Anti-bullying Week			
Mon 11th Nov	Reading café	Sphinx Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Tue 12th Nov	Odd Socks Day	All children and adults	Wear odd socks to school today. It's OK to be different. This is to raise awareness of individuality and to stand up against bullying and discrimination
Tues 12th Nov	Reading café	Minotaur Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Wed 13 th Nov	Workshop	EYFS, Y1/2 classes and Y5	Anti-bullying Workshops – each class has an allocated time to work with professionals
Wed 13th Nov	Reading café	Pegasus Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Thurs 14 th Nov	Workshop	Years 3/4 and Y6	Anti-bullying workshops – each class has an allocated time to work with professionals
Thurs 14th Nov	Reading café	Mermaid Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 15th Nov	Reading café	Dragon Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 15th Nov	Swimming	Y3	Swimming session 8/10
Week 3 – National Road Safety Week			
Mon 18th Nov	Reading Cafe	Gnome Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Mon 18th Nov	School Nursing	All parents/ carers	School Nursing team on site for bookable appointments regarding your child and any health needs, e.g. toileting, constipation, diet, growth, sleep, etc... Please see information above
Tue 19th Nov	Reading Café	Phoenix Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Wed 20 th Nov	Reading café	Griffin Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Thurs 21 st Nov	Roadshow	All classes	Road Safety Show performed by Mr Randini – a fun and exciting way to learn the clear messages of road safety
Thurs 21st Nov	Reading Café	Kraken Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 22 nd Nov	Reading Café	Centaur Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 22nd Nov	Swimming	Y3	Swimming session 9/10
Week 4			
Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th	Assessment Week	Y1-Y6	Assessment week in school.
Mon 25th – Fri 29th	Scholastics Book Fair	Whole school	Book fair will be in main school from 3pm – please come and have a look
Mon 25th Nov	Reading Café	Pre-school	2pm in main school – please sign in at the school office
Tues 26 th Nov	Reading café	Basilisk Class	2:30pm – please sign in at the school office
Fri 29 th Nov	Swimming	Y3	FINAL Swimming session
Week 5			
Mon 2 nd Dec	Workshop	All parents / carers	Parent/Carer evening workshop about gang crime and violence in the community (<i>Only for 18+ participants, no children permitted</i>) This is held at Gatten & Lake Primary School
Wed 4 th Dec	Flu immunisations	Whole school	Flu Immunisations – more information to follow to enable your child to have the flu spray in school this day.
Thurs 5 th Dec	Workshops	Y5 & Y6	Children's workshops on R.U.D.E (More information to follow)
Week 6			
Fri 13 th Dec	PTA Christmas Fayre	Whole school	2-5pm in the main school

Week 7			
Mon 16 th Dec	Christmas Christingle Service rehearsal	Whole school	Children will go All Saint's Church to practice for the Christingle Service
Wed 18 th Dec	Jumpers!	YR – Y6	Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 18 th Dec	Dinner	YR – Y6	Christmas Dinner Day – this will need to be pre-ordered
Wed 18 th Dec	Christingle Service	Whole school	All Saint's Church 6-8pm
Thur 19 th Dec	Christingle Service	Whole school	All Saint's Church 6-8pm
Fri 20 th Dec	Whole school cinema	YR – Y6	Vintage Cinema
Fri 20 th Dec	Parties	Whole School	Christmas Party Afternoon – wear party clothes to school
Fri 20 th Dec	Term ends	Everyone 😊	Last Day of the term – happy holidays 😊
Winter break – Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January			
Week 1			
Mon 6 th Jan	Term starts	Everyone 😊	We look forward to seeing everyone for the start of the Spring Term in school.