



Head Teacher's March 2022 Newsletter

Spring is in the Air!

It's nice to see the spring bulbs in flower on the school site to brighten up the walk into school. The weather is also starting to show more promise as the sunshine breaks through the clouds. However, please always ensure that your child brings a coat with them in case the class spends time outside. The temperature can also change as the day goes on and I have noticed a few of our children getting cold when they are playing outside at lunch or morning break.

Morning Start Times (Repeat notification from my January 2022 Newsletter)

Please be reminded that the school session times begin (registration) at slightly different times in the mornings between the two phases of school. It is vital that **all** children arrive in time to enter classes with their peers in time for this essential part of the school day.

Registration begins ("The train leaves") at 9:00am in Early Years and Foundation Phase (Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2).

Registration begins ("The train leaves") at 8:50am in Key Stage 2 (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6).

In Key Stage 2 especially, we are experiencing an exceptionally large number of frequent late arrivals. I can understand why there may be some confusion, having had to implement a variety of different staggered times over the last two years of Covid. Also, there is a difference in start times for different phases in school. However, having clarified the situation in several Newsletters, I can expect to see all children arriving on time to catch the 8:50am or 9:00am train.

Any children arriving in class after the start of registration will be recorded as late. Even if you have one child on each site, if they miss the registration start time, they are late. The teachers have also started to note the number of minutes that a child may arrive to class late as a means of measuring the impact.

Punctuality Letters

Having reminded you all of the expectations (see repeated notification above), I have instructed the teachers to review their registers to count up the number of late arrivals from January 2022. Parents will be issued with a letter once the number of late arrivals hits a trigger point. The trigger points are listed below.

- 0-5 occasions = No letter but being monitored
- 10 occasions = Letter 1 (Advice notification from Class Teacher)
- 11-20 occasions = Letter 2 (1st warning from Class Teacher)
- 25 occasions = Letter 3 (2nd warning plus meeting with Class teacher)
- 30 occasions = Letter 4 (3rd warning plus meeting with Head or Deputy)
- 35 occasions = Referral to Local Authority Attendance Support Officer
- 40+ occasions = Referral to Education Social Worker

Some parents will be receiving "Letter 1" this week to notify them of the situation. Bare in mind that there may be times when our register statistics for late arrivals are slightly out of synch between siblings in different classes. This is because some children may well get lucky and just manage to slip into the registration session as their name is being called.

Holiday Requests

I am noticing an increase in the number of "Application for Leave of Absence" forms for family holidays this term. This is mainly due to travel companies expecting cancelled holidays to be used instead of being carried forward. On the whole, although we do not encourage you to take children out of school for a holiday, we are still authorising up to ten school days of term-time leave. However, if your child has a considerably low attendance, a request for leave may be refused and I will have to list the absence as "Unauthorised".

It is vital that you do not take your child on holiday during term time without completing an application form. These forms are available from the school office on either site.

Returning After Illness

In line with NHS guidance, if your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea, they **MUST NOT** come to school for a full 48 hours after their last episode. Should a child return to school too early, it puts other children and staff at a higher risk of falling victim to the same illness. If we know for certain that your child has been sick or has had

diarrhoea but has returned to school in less than 48 hours, we will be phoning home for them to be collected. To avoid this sensitive phone call, please stick to the NHS rules.

Covid Update - Isolation, Lateral Flow Tests, etc.

In Wales, the current period of isolation when diagnosed with Covid-19 is 5 days minimum. A positive person can stop isolating if they provide two consecutive LFTs on Day 5 and Day 6. If the LFT is still positive on Day 5 or 6, the person will have to isolate up to 10 days if they have been unable to provide 2 consecutive LFTs.

If you or your child have any symptoms or have been instructed to isolate by a doctor or Track & Trace (TTP), you must isolate and arrange a PCR test. Do not stop isolating until you have a confirmed negative PCR result. If you have a positive PCR result, follow the guidance above but you must attain an "end of isolation" date from TTP or NHS.

Please take heed of all letters that I may have to send out following the identification of any positive cases in school. There are two letters:

1. "INFORM" Letter = Sent out to the class following one identified case in the class. This instructs you to be extra alert to your child showing any symptoms or signs of illness.
2. "WARN AND INFORM" Letter = Sent out to the class if two or more cases are identified in the same class within a 7 day period. This instructs all children to complete a series of daily LFTs each morning before coming to school for a period of 7 days.

Vehicle Drop-offs

As the new school site takes shape, we have introduced a couple of our drop-off bays for a quick and easy way of dropping your child off at school. Although they are not marked out clearly yet, the area can be found by entering the site (CAREFULLY and SLOWLY) and driving towards the round-about. Go around the round-about and the bays are located on your left hand side near the builder's compound. **DO NOT JUMP ACROSS TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROAD TO GET TO THESE SPACES!!!!!!**

The drop-off bays are NOT parking spaces for parents. They are designed to provide a quick, safe means of dropping your child at school and then driving off again. Your child should be sensible and independent enough to walk down the pavement island and use zebra crossing points to get themselves to the right place. Bare in mind, Carol the Lollipop Lady has to park in the drop-off area and there may also be vehicles belonging to the builders and Doctors on the odd occasion. This "drop-off" facility will improve over time.

Please do not stop your car to drop your child off in any other area. I've noticed some parents dropping off before the round-about and inside the little car park on the left. **PLEASE DON'T!!!**

On the images below, the red areas are **NOT** for general use! They are for Blue-Badge owners and school taxis only. In the daytime, I have also allowed a limited number of surgery staff to park in this area. If you do own a Blue Badge but you do not need to exit your car, please do not come into this area.



Uniform Discount

As we are currently finalising the new school logo design, Sarah's Embroidery have told me that they will be offering a discount on their current stock of branded school uniform. The new logo is expected to be officially launched just before the school summer holidays ready to be worn in September 2022. It will still be absolutely fine for our children to wear uniform with our current logo as I know that the clothing will still be fit for purpose. The new logo will take a while to be fully embedded on all items uniform. The colour of our uniform will **not** be changing.



Head Teacher's March 2022 Newsletter

Building Delays

As I informed you earlier this half term, the building project has fallen approximately 4 weeks behind schedule for a number of unexpected reasons in Phase 2. This means that Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th of June 2022 are normal school days for all pupils. When I know the new completion date, I will let you know.

Allergies

We have a number of children with severe nut allergies in school. It is important that these children can go about their daily school routines without any increased worry or threat. Therefore, please can I insist that you do not send your child into school with any nuts for snacks or for their lunch. Some food products contain an obvious level of nuts, so please avoid these items to help minimise the risks caused by accidental cross-contamination.

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma, please ensure that we know about it at school. Also, we need to have the appropriate inhaler and spacer in school with them. Your child's asthma equipment will be kept safe inside their classroom. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that the inhaler is kept up to date, so please take note of any use-by dates.

For emergency situations, we keep a blue Ventolin inhaler in my office and another is kept with Mrs Jones in the Deputy Head's office.

Head Lice

Sometimes, children get head lice. It's not our fault, it just happens! I know how frustrating it can be (and expensive) to have to treat your child should you notice them. It is vital that ALL parents/carers check their child's hair thoroughly at least once per week for any signs of live head lice or their eggs. The eggs are much harder to find as they are tiny and almost transparent. They can be easy to spot on the crown and top of a child's head but they are great at hiding at the back of the head; so please look carefully.

Parent - Teacher Consultation Sessions

Week beginning 4th to Thursday 7th April we will be holding our second parents' evening sessions. As we are still being bothered with Covid in school, we will be holding the sessions on the School Cloud virtual platform. A guide for parents will be sent out later this week. Each session will be for 10 minutes per child. It will also be possible for children with dual-parenting situations to have two separate appointments IF it is not feasible to hold the session at the same time. The School Cloud platform will allow two parents to attend the same meeting at the same time from two different locations. This is ideal if one parent is at home and the other is stuck at work.

This week, the teachers are organising their own personal availability for that week ready for you to match your own preferences when booking an appointment.

The School Cloud will be open for you to book your time slot from 4:00pm on Monday 28th March.

The booking window will close at 6:00pm on Sunday 3rd April.

If you have any issues that prevent you from making an appointment, please contact your child's Class Teacher.

Confirmed School Dates

Last day for pupils / Easter Holidays = Friday 8th April

INSET / Training Day = Monday 25th April

Pupils Return to school = Tuesday 26th April

Last day for pupils / Whit Holiday = Thursday 26th May

Queen's Jubilee = Friday 27th May (schools were told to put their Jubilee date into their calendar as an extra day)

Pupils Return to school = Monday 6th June

Last day for pupils / Summer Holiday = Tuesday 19th July

** We have got two INSET / Staff Training Days to add once I've been told exactly when the building work will be completed. The school will be fully closed on these two days (including Holiday Club) to allow us to relocate into the new building.

Happy Days!!

Over the last few weeks of term, the children in various year groups have had lots of fantastic experiences in and outside school. We've had visits from the Inclusion Curriculum, AmaSing drumming and composing workshops, a chocolate making workshop, we've been hands-on with reptiles, parrots and other animals, some children have visited Acton Park, visits from PC Ellis and Year 3 are heading into Chester to be Romans in a couple of weeks! It's also been fantastic to see the return of our team events and training sessions in school with the Year 6 football, girls' football, girls' tag-rugby and Pro-Skills. The Year 6 football team have competed in three tournaments this month ending with an undefeated victory in the Wrexham Primary Schools Tournament!

Diolch am eich cefnogaeth - Thank you for your support ~ Mr Nicholson