

Good Afternoon

Firstly can I thank everyone for their understanding with our monumental water leak on Monday. It took Northumbrian water all day to fix it so it was a good job we closed for the day. I know it would have caused a lot of upset for you but well done to all those that managed to get onto TEAMS to learn from home.

Vouchers

We have been asked to remind all families that received the Household Support Vouchers need to be redeemed by 28th February.

Health and Safety

Sickness bug - we have a sickness bug going around school and it is quite prevalent in Nursery and their siblings. We have done a deep clean and will continue to be vigilant but would ask that parents/ carers watch out for any other symptoms as this can be one of the symptoms of the Omicron variant. Children must stay off for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Covid -19:

We currently have 5 live cases within school. I have attached information for isolation periods since it changed. A key message has remained the same - if your child has symptoms they get a PCR test. If you are doing LFT twice a week or for 7 days as a closed contact and test positive with no symptoms you do not need a PCR but need to isolate. Again if the LFT is positive and there are symptoms a PCR test is required.

Clubs

As we had to cancel the clubs on Monday the office will be in contact about refunding or rolling forward monies you have already paid out for the session.

Contact Details

Could you spread the word to make sure we have everyone able to receive and read messages that come home. I am aware that we had several families who had not received the message about the school closure so will also not be receiving the messages about what is happening in school. If they need help setting up on Parentmail ask them to contact the office. Equally if you change your contact details - phone or email, please let us know straight away.

Cleaning Position

We have a position for a cleaner in school and I have attached the information if this is of interest to anyone to apply.

'A cleaner required as soon as possible. We have a vacancy for 15 hours per week. We can be flexible how we deliver these hours Hours of work. We would consider 2 candidates cleaning for 7.5 hours or 1 candidate cleaning for 15 hours a week. Hours could be mornings or afternoons depending on the availability of the applicant. The school wishes to appoint a Cleaner to undertake the cleaning of designated areas and ensure high standards of cleanliness and hygiene are met and maintained within the school. Essential Qualifications: Previous cleaning experience desirable but not essential as training can be provided. The successful candidate would undergo a enhanced DBS check.'

Learning in School

Reading - as you are aware children are bringing their reading books home each week. This is to support them practicing their fluency and comprehension at the stage of reading they are at. Reading is at the heart of children being able to access learning in all other subjects hence the high weighting we give to it in school. We need not only to teach the mechanics of reading but also to instill a love of books and reading.

Could we request that the books come back into school when requested.

In the next few weeks we will be looking at the children who are significantly behind in reading and ensuring that they have the opportunity to read to an adult every day. If your child is identified we would be looking to ask you to be reading for a few minutes each day with them so their books would come home every day. If they are not able to read at home every day school is expected to find the time for this to happen in school. We would need to make sure this doesn't mean they are missing out on any other area of the curriculum so the more you can help your child each day (even 5 minutes would help) the quicker their progress would be. Again - the books need to be coming back into school. More information will be shared over the next few weeks.

Whole School Focus - this week we have focused on positive gestures and body language and looking at how we present ourselves can impact on others. This includes facial expressions, how we stand and how we interact with other.

Today is National Hug Day - we can't encourage this within school at the current time but maybe it would be a nice thing for home.

Attendance

We are still expected to analyse our attendance and identify those who fit in the persistent absence category (90% or below). We have a duty to inform you and where necessary issue warning letters to allow you to be aware that the attendance is impacting on your child's ability to make progress. Although we are still in challenging times we need to make sure when children are able to come to school they do so. Our whole school attendance compares well against

National weekly data but our persistent absences are significantly higher. Our PA rate for Autumn Term is 25%, if we take out those related to Covid absences it is reduced to 19.5%. This is a significant figure and will further hamper children trying to catch up for lost learning.

Schools Attendance for the Autumn Term - 93.4% National Attendance for Autumn Term - 89.7%

This weeks attendance:

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|------------------|-------|
| Foundation Stage | 95.6% |
| Year 1 | 97% |
| Year 2 | 96.4% |
| Year 3 | 97.2% |
| Year 4 | 87.5% |
| Year 5 | 90.6% |
| Year 6 | 94% |
| total | 93.9% |

Enjoy the weekend and let's hope the sun keeps shining and the sickness bug has run its course.

M Mackenzie and all the staff