

Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sure that you will appreciate that schools are experiencing a challenging time at the moment. Many children and staff are testing positive for Covid and absence rates are high. We are so fortunate to have such hard working, flexible staff and we are managing to cover all absences. This is, however, adding pressure to workload and we appreciate your support and understanding at this time.

We realise that cancelling our indoor clubs for the time being has caused disappointment for some and we will ensure that we will restart them as soon as we feel it is safe and manageable. They were cancelled at short notice as we were advised to reduce children mixing with others as much as possible, but also because staff are busy covering for each other and preparing extra work. Hopefully this is the only thing which will impact your children negatively, we are trying our utmost to keep things as normal as possible.

Children who are isolating, and are well enough, will be provided with work to do at home and we will give you information on this if your child does test positive for Covid. Reception parents will receive information on home learning via Tapestry from their teachers. Years 1 and 2 will receive a work pack if someone is able to safely come and collect it for your child (no-one who has tested positive for Covid should come to the school to collect work for a child), please let us know if you have any problems in collecting this.

Covid testing and isolation period

We are asking all families to test their children daily with LFT kits. We have kits available from the School Office and are hoping to have a delivery next week so that we can give all families a kit. If your child does have Covid symptoms (however mild) it is **essential** that that you arrange a PCR test for them and that they self-isolate at home. We are finding that many children are experiencing tummy upsets and sickness as an early possible symptom of Covid - please be mindful and cautious of this. Anyone with Covid can end their self-isolation period after 5 full days, as long as they test negative on day 5 and day 6. Individuals who still test positive on their LFTs on these test days must stay in isolation until they have 2 consecutive negative tests taken on separate days. Isolation ends after 10 days regardless of test results and as long the individual does not have a raised temperature. Please contact the School Office if you are in any doubt over your child's isolation period.

Learning Behaviours

This week we have been thinking about being Resourceful - developing our thinking skills and trying to work together to solve problems. Your children are working so hard and making good progress. Please continue to support their learning at home by regularly using Mathletics in Year 2 and continuing to read together every day.

Parent / Teacher chats

All of the parent/teacher chats will be held the week beginning Monday 7th February, please sign up on the online booking form if you haven't already done so, we expect every parent to attend a chat with their child's teacher. Thank you to our Reception parents for your understanding and co-operation in having the chats rescheduled by a week.

White Rose Maths app and World Maths Day

We would like to encourage parents to download the new White Rose Maths app. The app has various 1 minute Maths challenges which really support children in practising their mental Maths. We are planning to celebrate World Maths Day on Wednesday 23 March and we will keep you updated on this.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - Friday 28 January to Sunday 30 January

Please find to follow a link with details of the RSPB's annual Big Garden Birdwatch. This is a lovely activity for the whole family to become involved in this weekend at home.

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Joggers/PE trousers - donations please!

If you have any spare, outgrown joggers/PE trousers aged 4-7 we would love to receive them, we always need these to dress children in if they become wet or muddy during the school day. Please bring any donations to the School Office. If your child has been sent home in spare joggers/trousers (or any clothing) from school, please return these as our stocks are very low.

Parent support cafes - drop in sessions

Attached is a flyer advertising drop in sessions for parents who are facing behavioural and other issues with their children. We hope that some of you might find these useful.

Kingston Adult Education Community Learning newsletter

Please find attached information on the current courses being run by Kingston Adult Education, there is a particular focus on Wellbeing courses.

Love the Ball - February camp during half term

Our Love the Ball crew will be running their holiday camp at Coombe Hill over the February half term, please go to the following link for

details <https://lovetheball.com/courses/holidaycamps.html>

Wishing you a relaxing weekend.

Janet Berry