

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank all of you for your support over the past couple of weeks. As you know, positive Covid cases have been high in the school among our children and staff (in line with a similar pattern across other schools in the Borough) and we have worked hard to keep things as normal as possible for the children. We are encouraged to see that over the past couple of days positive cases are starting to decrease and much of this is due to your vigilance and caution in testing your children regularly and not sending them in to school with Covid symptoms. Thank you to all parents who have collected their children promptly if their child has developed symptoms during the day and have arranged for them to be tested quickly. We hope that this pattern continues next week and, all being well, all school clubs will resume as normal after half term from Monday 21 February.

We do have a supply of Lateral Flow test kits available from the School Office but not enough to distribute to every family, please ask us if you need a pack. We have been asked by the local Public Health team to encourage parents to order LFT kits via the NHS online ordering site <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

### **Mental Health week**

Next week we will be participating in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is **Growing Together**. Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. We are helping the children to develop their emotional intelligence which is the ability to recognise, understand and manage their own emotions as well as recognising and understanding the emotions of others. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone. This fits in with our school motto, '*Learn together, Grow together.*' We have planned activities around stories, songs and discussions. Please support us at home, we have attached some ideas. The Place2be website also has some helpful parenting tips <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

### **Behaviour**

Our learning behaviour this week has been based on being Resourceful. We have been encouraging your children to try their best, find different ways to solve problems and to think about what they have learnt. Next week we will think about being ready to learn, with a focus on good listening and following the golden rules. Thank you for your support with this. Your children are learning how to socialise and get along with each other and they do make mistakes sometimes. If you are concerned about your child's behaviour, or that of another child, please talk to us about this directly. Please avoid discussing anyone else's child on WhatsApp groups, this can be really unpleasant.

### **Parent/teacher meetings**

Hopefully you have all now booked an appointment to meet with your child's teacher for a

parent chat next week. There is an expectation that we meet with all parents, please let us know if you need help with anything. Please come into the school via the blue side gate once the main gate is locked. The code is 9876 (please do not share this code with anyone outside our community). Please ensure that the blue gate closes firmly behind you and do not hold the gate for anyone, we have children on-site after school and need to keep the site secure. We ask that masks are worn on the school site at all times, thank you.

### **Clubs and Cake Sale next week**

Due to the Parent chats no clubs run by our teachers are going ahead next week (this was outlined in the original Clubs timetable). The only clubs running next week are the outdoor clubs run by our external providers - Monday Love the Ball "multi-sports", Wednesday Forest School and Thursday Wildcats and Year 1 boys football. Connections will run as normal before and after school of course. We do still have a few spare places on some of the after school clubs for after half term and if you would like more information please email the School Office. The Hedgehog class cake sale will go ahead next week after school on Thursday 10 February.

### **Road Safety on the school run**

We are trying really hard to teach your children about road safety, using crossings etc. They are responding so well to this and are very keen to do the right thing. However we have noticed that some parents are crossing the road without walking up to the lights - this terrifies us and also gives the wrong message to your children. We have asked the children to remind you about this, please support us with this extremely important message. The school has recently written to RBK to ask that the speed limit be reduced on Coombe Lane West, outside our school. The letter is attached for information. We have also asked for barriers to be erected either side of the road, which would help to prevent parents and carers dangerously running across the road with their children. Our children also wrote their own letters which we included in our submission. We are awaiting a decision from the Borough and will keep you informed.

### **50th Anniversary Bounceathon - Thursday 10 February**

You should have received information and a sponsorship form about our 50th Anniversary Bounceathon being held here at the school next Thursday 10 February during the school day. We will have a bouncy castle in the hall and each child will have the opportunity to have a go at bouncing 50 times in twenty minutes. This has previously been one of our biggest fund-raising events of the year and we hope that you, friends and relatives will all support your children. We have not been able to hold this event for 2 years so it is lovely to bring it back. Please return all forms and money to the School Office in an envelope marked "Sponsored Bounce". Thank you very much for your support. You will be receiving details of another fundraising event that CHIPTA are organising with a local pizza kit delivery company "Doughies Pizza" after half term so look out for this.

### **Richmond Park event**

Please find attached a poster with information about a lovely half term activity trail "Let's Discover Trees in Winter" on Thursday 17 February in Richmond Park.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend.

Janet Berry