



Newsletter Autumn 1 2021

I can't believe we are at the end of our first half term in school this year. It has certainly been a busy few weeks but lovely to have the children back in assembly as a whole school family and not operating in bubbles. We know we are not yet clear of the pandemic and this will still affect some of our planning for the rest of this term at least.

Covid 19

We have a robust risk assessment and contingency outbreak plan in school should we have a rising number of cases. So far, we have not had to enact this but we continue to be vigilant. In line with the risk assessment should your child display symptoms in school however mild, we will ask you to collect them from school and arrange a PCR test. In line with guidance, where a family member has tested positive, children can still attend school unless they display symptoms or test positive on a PCR.

Curriculum Enrichment

As we are returning to a greater degree of normality educational visits and activities have

recommended. Year 5 and Year 6 children have attended residential visits: Year 6 spent 3 days at Robinwood; Year 5 attended Bushcraft for a night. To support Year 1's topic of Paws, Claws and Whiskers children were able to meet a police dog and his handler, to explore the positive contribution animals make to our emergency services. Look out for information from your child's class teacher about future educational visits.

Sporting Achievements

We have taken part in a number of sporting activities this half term. Six Year 6 pupils completed their Sports Crew training and are currently in the process of training another six members to join the team. Children from Year 4, 5 and 6 attended Stockton Schools cross country trials and did themselves proud. We had two children qualify for the Tees Valley finals, Lockie Poole and Owen Saunders. Both did extremely well finishing 24th and 29th respectively, huge congratulations to them both. Next half term the focus turns to indoor athletics.

Rights Respecting School



We have begun our work to become a Rights Respecting School and are hoping to achieve the Bronze Award by Christmas. In school we are focusing on a different article every month. September's was article 28 – every

child has the right to a good education; October's was article 12 – every child has the right to express their views and opinions. On our return after half term, please ask your child about November's article of the month.

Attendance

Understandably, on our return to school incidents of Covid have affected attendance along with seasonal colds and sickness. Our current whole school attendance rate is 94.6%. We are looking to improve on this next half term with a target of over 96%.



The class with the highest attendance is Miss Harrison's Year 6 class with an attendance of 96.5%! Well done everyone.

May I remind parents that leave of absence requests will only be authorised by the school in exceptional circumstances as outlined in the school attendance policy, which is available on the website. Where holidays have been rescheduled due to Covid, we will need to see the original booking documentation when considering the leave of absence request. All other requests will be categorised as unauthorised and subject to a fixed penalty notice referral in line with school policy.

Car Park

We are continuing to operate a drop zone each morning for children in KS2. This is to try and support the car parking situation on a morning by removing the need for some cars to park. This is a difficult situation to navigate as the car park is not a parental car park but designed to accommodate staff and visitors to the school only. I am liaising with the council as to what our options are in terms of alleviating issues around parking.

Gentle Lunch Time Reminder

We are a nut free school as we do have children with allergies. Please do not send anything in your child's lunch box that contains nuts, this includes items such as Nutella.

Marvellous Me!

In addition to the text service, Marvellous Me is our preferred method of parental communication from class teachers. Please ensure that you have installed the app and can access information sent in this way. If you have any issues please contact the school office who will be happy to help or see the attached update regarding Marvellous Me. Children and teachers love to see your Hi 5 responses, we have had 1926 Hi 5s since we launched the app.



IMPORTANT UPDATE

Please update your app to the latest version of MarvellousMe. It delivers new features, improvements and a notification overhaul.

- To get device notifications, please toggle the device notifications switch 'Off' and back 'On' again. Even if it shows as 'On', you must toggle it 'Off' and 'On' once to activate your device for the new notification system.
- See everything sent from the school in 'News'. Filter, sort, star!

The image shows three screenshots of the Marvellous Me app. The first screenshot is the 'Settings' page with a red box around the 'Get Alerts' toggle. The second screenshot is the home screen with a red box around the 'News' icon. The third screenshot is the 'News' page with a red box around the 'See all News' link. Below the screenshots are the labels 'Get Alerts' and 'See all News'. A fourth screenshot shows a notification being opened, with a red arrow pointing to the 'See all News' link in the notification.

Opening attachments with latest iOS

This screenshot shows an iOS notification from Marvellous Me. A red arrow points from the 'See all News' link in the notification to the 'See all News' link in the app's news page.

Diary Dates

- Thurs 21st Oct 2021: Harvest Festival, children only
- Fri 22nd Oct 2021: School finishes for half term.
- Mon 1st Nov 2021: School returns after half term.
- Wed 10th Nov 2021: School photographs
- Wed 1st Dec 2021: Flu immunisation in school
- Wed 1st Dec 2021: Parental Consultations via Teams.

- Fri 17th Dec 2021: School finishes for Christmas
- Tues 4th Jan 2022: Bank Holiday for Platinum Jubilee
- Wed 5th Jan 2022: Professional Development Day
- Thurs 5th Jan 2022: Children return to school
- Fri 18th Feb 2022: School finishes for half term
- Mon 28th Feb 2022: Children return to school
- Fri 8th Apr 2022: School finishes for Easter
- Mon 25th Apr 2020: Children return to school
- Mon 2nd May 2022: Bank Holiday
- Mon 9th May 2022: Year 6 SATs Week
- Mon 16th May 2022: Professional Development Day
- Fri 27th May 2022: School finishes for half term
- Mon 6th June 2022: School returns after half term
- Mon 6th June 2022: Week of phonic screening
- Mon 13th/20th June 2022: Multiplication Tables Check takes place for Year 4
- Fri 24th June 2022: Professional Development Day
- Thurs 21st July 2022: School finishes for the Summer

Have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 1st November.

Best Wishes

Mrs Williams