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 8th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we have had our first official ‘event’ out of school and children have been rather excited. Children from across the school were chosen to attend the ‘Go Well Heart Project’. They came back very tired from their very active participation but thoroughly enjoyed the activities. We also celebrated National Space Week by asking children to create a space themed model, drawing, story or poem. The response to this has been phenomenal and would like to thank all the parents and carers who have helped to make these creations- we really do appreciate that it was unexpected task for you all but you have put your heart and soul into them and they are amazing. The buzz in our school today has been lovely to hear and children have even watched Y6 launching rockets. It has been fabulous to see the huge variation in ideas. We have very creative children and are very proud of them. Over the next week we will be posting some photos on our Facebook page and on our school website so please take the time to look at them. We are hoping some of the children will allow us to keep their designs for a bit longer so we can display them around school.

Halloween disco

Information was sent out yesterday about the Halloween disco. Please use the link provided on the letter to book tickets. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will stay straight after school and staff will help them get ready for a 3:15pm start. Please send their clothes with them. They are then to be collected at 4:15pm from their usual door. Staff will arrange to bring them from the hall to this usual exit.

Year 3,4,5 and 6 starts at 4:30pm and children should come to their normal entrance door dressed in their disco clothes. Their disco finishes at 5:30pm and they are to be collected from their normal exit door. Please note that no children will be allowed to walk home alone due to the late finish time. Please arrange for your child to be collected at the correct time.

Reception and KS1 Children who usually attend after school care can return to this after their disco finishes at 4:30pm and can then be collected at their normal time. Children who use After School Care should bring their disco clothes with them.

London marathon

We would like to say well done to all of our families who took part in the London Marathon. It is such an achievement and the money raised for charity is always appreciated. We have some very proud children this week and I am sure it will inspire the next generation of runners.

Uniform left in classes

We are starting to gather huge amounts of uniform in classes that children have left at the end of the school day. If your child has lost anything please ask a member of staff and please name items it to make it easier to return.

Air ambulance bags

Air ambulance bags were sent out earlier this week. Please have a good clear out and fill the bags to help raise money for this service. Please drop bags off at the hub building on the morning of 18th and 19th October. They will be collected by The Air Ambulance service on the evening 19th October. Due to limited space in school, please do not bring bags earlier than this date. Thank you.

School uniform

We have noticed over the last week that the number of children wearing bright, branded trainers is increasing. School shoes must be plain black in colour so please ensure our children has the correct footwear. We do encourage children to bring wellies in the wet weather and they are welcome to change these once in school.
We also have a policy of no nail varnish. We appreciate that over weekends and holidays that children may chose to wear this but please ensure that it is removed for a Monday morning.

Winter PE kits

As the weather has begun to turn this week, you may want to consider adapting your child’s PE kit to suit the colder months. This could include tracksuit bottoms or leggings rather than shorts and a jumper for warmth. We do still have PE outside and whilst much of the time is spent moving around it can still get chilly if they are in shorts. Whilst we ask children to have a PE t-shirt in their team colour do not expect children to have branded PE kits or tops and a jumper of any colour is suitable for the winter.

Show Racism the Red Card Day

We are going to be dressing in red on 21st October in recognition of ‘Show racism the red card’. This event does not require any money donation but we hope to raise awareness that racism is not acceptable in society. WE look forward to seeing any red items such as clothing, hair accessories or socks.

Key diary dates

The updated list of important dates has been updated and is attached with this newsletter. Please keep a note of the dates for future reference.

Covid-19

We have been advised that there has been a couple of confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the school.Where needed**,** NHS test and trace have been in contact with individuals who have been identified as a close contact to let them know if they are legally required to self-isolate, and to provide further advice.

The school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well. Please be reassured that for most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

**How to stop coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with coronavirus (COVID-19):

* get vaccinated – everyone aged 16 and over can [book COVID-19 vaccination appointments](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/) now
* wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
* cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
* put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards
* meet people outside and avoid crowded areas
* open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
* wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
* participate in twice weekly LFD testing following national guidelines (recommended for 11 years and over). We encourage you to log your results here: <https://www.gov.uk/log-test-site-covid19-results>

Further information is available at nhs.uk/coronavirus

**What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19**

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of:

* new continuous cough and/or
* high temperature and/or
* a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

If your child does develop symptoms, they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test). if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared.

 If you are concerned about your child’s symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

If your child has a positive test result but does not have symptoms they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset

 **Instructions for people who live in the same household as someone with COVID-19**

From 16 August, [you will not be required to self-isolate if you are a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#exempt) and any of the following apply:

* you are fully vaccinated (with an MHRA approved COVID-19 vaccine in the UK, and at least 14 days have passed since you received the vaccine.
* you are below the age of 18 years 6 months
* you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
* you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

NHS Test and Trace will contact you to let you know that you have been identified as a contact and check whether you are legally required to self-isolate. Even if you do not have symptoms, [you will be advised to have a PCR test as soon as possible](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection#PCR).

Even if you are vaccinated, you can still be infected with COVID-19 and pass it on to others. If you are identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 but you are not required to self-isolate, you can help protect others by

* limiting close contact with other people outside your household, especially in enclosed spaces
* wearing a face covering in enclosed spaces and where you are unable to maintain social distancing
* limiting contact with anyone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
* taking part in [regular LFD testing](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

You should follow this advice while the person in your household with COVID-19 is self-isolating. Those who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19) should be supported to minimise their contact with other people in the household during this period, regardless of whether others have symptoms or not.

You may be eligible for a Test and Trace Support Payment, for more information please see: [www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment](http://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment)

**Help, support, and further information.**

To help you comply with the requirement to self-isolate, the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details.

There is also support available the coronavirus section via durhamlocate.org.uk

**Useful Websites**

www.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus

www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help

www.durhamlocate.org.uk

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss please contact the school office to make an appointment or speak to school staff on the yard.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher