

19th March 2021

Dear Parents/carers

School update

We hope you are as proud as I am of our children's return to school over the last couple of weeks. It has been truly wonderful to see the children return so calmly, embrace their old and familiar routines and settle back into their learning. The children's behaviour, collaboration and effort have really been brilliant and we could not ask more of them. Well done children!

Winners of the Online Safety Poster Competition

As the school community are all back together again, I would like to share with you the competition winners for our online safety posters that was run to promote Internet Safety Day on the 9th February. We are delighted to tell you the winner from KS1 is Oliver and from KS2 the winner is Luke. The winners will be able to choose a resource or game for their class to use. Well done to all of the children who participated, they will be able to see their posters on display throughout the school and also a big thank you to Mrs Liderth for judging the poster competition for us.



Parents Evening

As the last parents evening was postponed back in February we are extremely keen to set some dates in your diaries, so you know in advance when these consultation appointments will be happening. This will be a great opportunity to talk about your child's learning and the next steps to support them as they progress through the year. The dates that we are putting forward to hold this event are the 25th and 27th May; appointments times will be made available after Easter.

The Reef

During the last lockdown the whole school staff were very busy preparing the school environment for the children's return, working above and beyond to ensure that it is a positive and happy experience, after what has been a really difficult year for many of them. We have also been working with a past student, who is currently at the University of Hertford, to create a wellbeing room called 'The Reef' for all pupils, to support their return.

'The Reef' is an experience not to be missed as you immerse yourself under the sea and experience a sensory delight. The gentle sound of the waves lapping the shore, beautiful soft light, tactile resources to touch and feel and if you look up to the surface you can see a turtle and Mata ray swimming by; a very calming environment. The idea was developed by Olivia Harvey, and she has volunteered many hours to the school to see this transform into a reality. The children were so surprised to see such a magical change and have loved visiting the room over the past few weeks. We would like to thank her very much on behalf of our school family.



Science Week

Mr Birchall is very pleased to say Science week has been a huge success. The classes enjoyed a variety of experiments which involved testing, experimenting and observing different elements within Science. We have been successful in creating bubbles with hula hoops, creating our very own snow globes in the form of flitter jars and looking at how sneezes spread germs.

As a school we studied a different scientist every day within our assembly times; it was fascinating to look at how technology within Science has evolved. The children have been very excited for their Science lessons all last week and could recall everything they have done with great enthusiasm. Thank you for bringing in resources that your child or others could use.

Central Bedfordshire Updates

MMR Vaccine - Central Bedfordshire Council have asked that I pass on the following message to our parents:

Are your family up to date with the MMR vaccine?

Most of us know that measles can make children very poorly, but did you know that measles can also lead to life threatening complications if you are not vaccinated? Central Bedfordshire Council, in collaboration with Public Health, are encouraging parents and carers to find out if their family are fully protected against measles. It's difficult to know which services are available during the current pandemic, but parents can be confident that the MMR vaccination is not affected by Covid. If a child is due to have their vaccination, or has missed one, they are available through your GP.

How many doses of the vaccination do children need to be fully protected?

The MMR vaccine is given in two doses, the first dose of the vaccine is at 1 year of age with the second being given at 3 years and four months. If you're older children have missed their second, don't panic! They can be vaccinated and protected. Get in touch with your GP to find out how.

Missed a vaccination?

If a child has missed a vaccination, don't worry, you can contact your GP to arrange a new appointment during the Covid pandemic. A catch-up vaccine is also available. For further information on the MMR vaccine, get in touch with your local GP or visit the NHS website.

Family Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

The Government has announced that LFT is now available to all households, childcare and support bubbles of nursery children, primary and secondary age pupils and college students.

Central Bedfordshire has advised us that there are 3 options to access testing:

- Community Testing Sites- the [3 local test community](#) testing sites are open 8.00am to 8.00pm
- Postal kits - by following the [ordering a home test kit online](#) link you can request a kit via the post
- Community Collect - following this [test site](#) link you can input your postcode and establish the site nearest you that can distribute kits. *Please note that at the moment there is not the facility to collect kits to test at home from the 3 Central Bedfordshire community testing sites, however, it is hoped these will become available over the next 10 days.*

Please note that they are not issued through the school.

This [guidance](#) provides your families further information in relation testing, it is your choice if you wish to take part in the testing.

Miss Brook's joining the team!

I am delighted to inform you that Miss Brooks will be joining our team after the Easter holidays as a Teaching Assistant. You may see her around over the next few days as she is popping in to get to know the children she will be working with in the first instance. We look forward to her joining our Houghton team!

Thank you again for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely



Miss Heaslip
Headteacher