



Northbourne News

14th January 2022

I hope you have all had a good week. As anticipated, Covid cases have been creeping up across school this week; I know you will join me in sending best wishes to those staff members who are unwell at the moment. Our staff have been so flexible in teaching classes other than the one they usually work in this week and, hopefully, this has meant you have seen little disruption to your child's education. I am so grateful to our teaching, support and office staff for their endless commitment and hard work.

Regulations around testing and isolation continue to change, and will change again from Monday. As it stands:

- If any of the three acknowledged Covid symptoms are shown - new and continuous cough **OR** temperature **OR** loss of or change to sense of taste or smell – a PCR test is needed.
- Lateral Flow Tests continue to be useful to identify asymptomatic Covid. A positive Lateral Flow Test currently does **not** need to be confirmed with a PCR test. Please remember to log results with NHS Test and Trace.
- The day of the positive LFT or the first symptoms being shown is day 0.
- As of Monday, LFTs can be taken on day 5 and day 6. If both tests are negative, isolation can end and children return to school after the negative test **on day 6**.

We know these rules are confusing, and work hard to keep on top of them. Please don't worry about checking isolation, testing requirements etc with me, Mrs. Johnston or a member of our office team – we are always happy to help. Please also keep in mind that we understand and share the frustrations caused by the ongoing disruption caused by Covid, but have a responsibility to follow government guidance to continue to limit virus transmission as much as we can.

Reading

You will know that the teaching of reading, and helping children develop a love of this, are central features of our curriculum. We would like to say a great big thank you for all the effort you are putting in to hearing your children read at home; it makes such a difference to their reading development.

In school we run a termly reading competition to see which class can record the most reads in their home-school reading record. In term 1 the winning classes were Eagles and Wrens; however they were overtaken in term 2 by Falcons and Nightingales. So far this year the children have read over 18,000 times and recorded them in their reading record – an amazing achievement, but we think we can do even better, especially with Swans and Puffins joining in from this term. We have set a whole school challenge of reading over 40, 000 times by the end of Term 6. If we manage this, there will be a whole school reward at the end of the school year. We know that with your help, we can reach our target. All that we ask is that you continue to hear your children read at home and record it in their reading record. I wonder which classes will win this term's reading challenge?...

Mud

Apologies if your children have been muddy at the end of school this week. Our site becomes very muddy during the autumn and winter; we try our hardest to ensure children avoid the worst areas, and the majority of the grassy areas – which are particular problems – are out of use at the moment. To help us even more, it would be really helpful if parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Key Stage One could make sure children have a pair of wellies to leave in school; these can then be used outside, to avoid school shoes getting covered in mud. Thanks in advance for your help.

Admission to Reception

A final reminder that the deadline for applications for children to start Reception in September – that is, children born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018 – is **tomorrow**. Please remember that children in our Nursery **do not** automatically transfer into school at the start of Reception – an application for **all** children needs to be made to the Local Authority at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

My School Fund

Please take a moment to read the attachment about My School Fund. By registering, you get back 2% of what you spend in Sainsburys and Argos, and school gets 1%. The last time this information was sent home three parents registered...thanks to just these three parents, we have received £80. Registering is quick and easy – please take a moment to visit the website and consider joining up as, if just three parents can raise £80, we stand to raise considerable amounts to support our school budget through this simple scheme.

Of course, huge thanks to those of you who have already registered.

Swimming

A reminder to parents of children in Owl class that they will start their 5 swimming lessons next Thursday (20th January - 17th February). For these lessons, boys will need swimming trunks (not shorts please) and girls will need a swimming costume (one-piece only; bikinis should not be worn). Pupils will also need a towel and a swimming hat – hats are available to buy from the school office.

You are welcome to include goggles in swimming kits for Thursday lessons; however, before doing so, please make sure that you:

- Choose a pair with BSI instructions on the packaging for the correct way to put on and take off goggles;
- Choose a pair that fit properly. Leaking goggles are annoying for children and waste lesson time;
- Ensure your child knows how to fit and adjust goggles properly as teachers aren't able to take responsibility for this.

If you have any questions about this, or any other aspects of swimming lessons, please speak to Miss Kellock or Mr. Shaughnessy.

Oxfordshire County Council consultations

Special Educational Needs: OCC have launched 2 inter-linked consultations on SEND this week, with both running until Thursday 10th March.

- The council and its partners are seeking views on a draft [Local Area SEND Strategy](#) to develop high-quality services across education, health, and social care to support children and young people and their families.
- Oxfordshire County Council's [proposals for system reform for SEND](#) include making more high-quality SEND education available closer to home, reducing reliance on out-of-county provision, and improving educational outcomes for children through closer partnerships between the council and schools.

There is one feedback survey in which you can respond to one or both consultations. You can find this survey and the key documents at: letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/SEND-2022

Online events will be held to introduce the consultation and answer any questions about the proposals for SEND on the following dates and times: Monday 31 January: 5.00pm – 6.30pm; Thursday 3 February: 8.30am – 10.00am; Saturday 5 February: 9.00am – 10.30am; Wednesday 9 February: 2.30pm – 4.00pm; Wednesday 16 February: 1.00pm – 2.30pm - event for children and young people

You can book a space at letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/SEND-2022

Road Safety: Oxfordshire County Council's Road Safety Team are constantly looking to improve the safety of child pedestrians and so are reviewing the advice and guidance we provide to parents and carers. To help us achieve this, we are evaluating the effectiveness of the Footsteps (Child Pedestrian safety advice for parents / carers) programme and would like parents and carers to help by completing an online questionnaire.

If you would like to keep your child safer on our roads, please visit [Walking with children | 365Alive](#) where you can download a copy of the Footsteps leaflet to provide you with guidance to support your child in becoming a safer and, eventually, an independent pedestrian. Once you have downloaded the Footsteps guide, the link to the survey can be found further down the page, please click on the link to complete the short questionnaire which will then help us to keep all children safer.

Willowbrook leisure centre has reopened!

Come and check out the make-over, spaces available to hire and the variety of sports we have to offer.

We have space available for personal trainers, fitness instructors, businesses looking to host meetings, schools that need a large hall, birthday parties, individuals, dance clubs, gymnastics, badminton, netball, football and much more with changing facilities, large studios, function rooms and a Sports hall!

The leisure centre is open to all and we would love to show you around during our open evening on the 13th and 20th of January.

We look forward to seeing you then, **The Team at Willowbrook**