



Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Dear Families,

Another successful week has passed, which has involved the children being exposed to the planned learning that they would be the most familiar with. The structure of English, Mathematics, phonics and the Foundation subjects has begun in each class. The familiarity of the BeDifferent way of learning is being felt by the children and the staff.

Leaders have been popping into all classes to observe how the children respond to the content and structure of the sessions. At the moment, it is less about what the children have forgotten in terms of knowledge but more about their ability to sustain concentration for long periods of time, without tiring and keeping up with the usual pace of learning. Staff have been directed to be mindful of content 'overload' and to gently chunk the learning so that the children's concentration can be built over time. The children are simply not used to the expectations or rigour of learning that they would have managed back in March and we accept this as one of the many challenges. Once the children are emotionally and mentally settled, their learning behaviours will improve. Please do make sure that you read daily with your child or that you encourage your child to read independently daily and encourage your child to complete the home learning tasks set for them. This will certainly help your child remain mentally stimulated and improve their long-term memory.

Attendance

We have been pleased with the whole school attendance so far, with this week's attendance being 88.9%. We have had many children and staff with blocked up noses and sore throats, typical of the 'cold like' sickness of the autumn term. We have spoken to many of you on the phone about the symptoms of your child, particularly when being compared to the Government published coronavirus symptoms checklist. This checklist is very open to interpretation, particularly when the symptoms of colds, flu and the coronavirus can be so similar. We feel that you know your child the best and you will recognise the typical cold symptoms that perhaps your child regularly has at this time of year. May we please ask you to consider the following before making the decision to register your child for a covid test:

Your child's temperature-is it below 37.8 degrees celcius?

Does your child have a runny or blocked up nose?

Does your child have a chesty cough or sore throat?

The symptoms above may be recognised as the common cold that you would usually send your child to school with or perhaps keep them at home for one or two days at the most. If your child has these symptoms, then provide your child with the tissues that they need and send them to school as you usually would. We are very keen to have all children in school as much as we possibly can. We are of course 'keeping an eye' on all children and will take children's temperature's, if we are concerned at all. If your child's temperature is above 37.8 degrees celcius, we will contact you to come and collect them immediately.

If your child has recognisable coronavirus symptoms, we ask that you register your child for a test. Please inform us of this so that we can log their absence as covid related. Please then inform us of the outcome of the test. If the test is negative, your child must return to school, if they are feeling better. This absence will be recorded as an authorised sickness absence. If

your child's test is a positive test, then their absence will be recorded as a covid related absence.

If your child is self-isolating because a member of the household is either awaiting the result of a covid test or has tested positive, then they must remain absent from school for 14 days, counting the first day as the first day the member of their household had symptoms. If the member of the household's test has a negative outcome, your child must return to school immediately.

If your child is absent from school, because you have informed us that they have a recognisable coronavirus symptom and you fail to get your child tested, then your child's absence from school will be recorded as a sickness absence, unrelated to the coronavirus.

We are keen to support you and your child in coming to school regularly. We know that the continuity of being back in our school is crucial to your child's development and progress. We are always at the end of a phone, if you need a bit of reassurance.

When should you receive Blended Learning?

If your child's absence is covid related, then we are obliged to send learning home to your child, as per the expectation in my Blended Learning communication. As soon as we know that your child is self-isolating or has the coronavirus symptoms themselves, awaiting test results, then your child's classteacher will send the learning via the Google Classroom.

We are not obliged to send any learning home for any other sickness or leave of absence, unless the sickness is of a long-term nature, due to its seriousness.

Our Blended Learning programme will start from **Monday 28th September 2020**.

A few more little updates for you

Snacks

If you do provide your child with a snack, then please may we ask you to wrap it or 'box it' and put into your child's book bag. Keeping it separate from your child's packed lunch box, helps us organise the snack time more easily for the younger children, in particular. Please don't forget that we have enough fruit for all of our Early Years and Key Stage 1 children so please do not feel that you have to pack something.

May I remind all families that crisps, cake and chocolate bars may not be consumed by the children for their 'snack break'. We would however like to see more filled water bottles in school please.

Thank you for your understanding and look after yourselves,

Mrs Bull - Chief Executive Headteacher