



Sandhurst Primary School

Newsletter
Autumn Term
18/9/20

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't quite believe we are only two weeks into term. Thank you to everyone that has supported us with getting back to school. I know it is really difficult to decide what are COVID 19 symptoms and what are normal autumn coughs and colds. We are waiting further guidance from Lewisham Health about symptoms, how to determine what is a continuous cough etc. I think we are all erring on the side of caution at the moment but until we receive further guidance I do believe that is the best way to go. But what we are being told is that the cough is very dry, no mucus at all and persistent means unable to stop coughing for about an hour, or three bad continuous coughing fits in a 24 hr period. We are also being told it is not just one spike in a temperature but a very high temperature over a prolonged period of time. It is very hard for me to make the decision, I am not a clinician and we are constantly reacting to the advice we are given. So if in doubt monitor for a day and then if concerned try for a test. I am also aware just how difficult it is proving to be to get a test and I do thank those of you that have persevered. Hopefully testing will gradually get easier and more efficient.

Some of you will have seen in the press that the decision on closing a bubble, a class or indeed the school following a positive test now lies with the Department for Education. It is not a school decision. Hopefully we won't have to, but if we did have a positive test we need to contact them and they then decide. Please be aware though, that they are fielding loads of calls and those decisions and updates are delivered on their time scales, not ours.

All I seem to be thinking about and speaking about at the moment is COVID 19, so let's think about something else. I was delighted yesterday when Mrs Glees was telling me about Yr 6 illuminating lightbulbs using fruit. They were so inspired. Lots of classes have been tasting the fruit or vegetable their class is named after; I saw some lovely decorated Peaches too. Mrs Kemp has been really busy this week sorting out Its Learning and moving all the classes up. Weekly home learning will be on Its Learning and she will be sending a letter shortly to explain it all.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Each year group will be holding a Meet the Teacher meeting via zoom, starting next Monday. This will be a 30-minute meeting for you to meet all the staff in the year group and hear about routines, expectations and the curriculum. There will be an opportunity for questions to. All meetings will take place at 4:30pm to allow those collecting from school chance to get home. We will also try to record the meetings so if you can't see it live you could catch up at a later date. The link will be sent during the day prior to each year group meeting.

The dates are:

Monday 21st September – Yr 5

Tuesday 22nd September – Yr 2

Wednesday 23rd September – Yr 1

Thursday 24th September – Yr 3

Monday 28th September – Yr Reception

Tuesday 29th September – Yr 6

Wednesday 30th September – Yr 4

Secondary Transfer

Thank you so much to all the Yr 6 parents that joined me on zoom to talk about the secondary transfer process. Some Yr 5 parents also like to get ahead of the game and view schools a year in advance. As I said at the meeting most schools are offering virtual tours, a few are doing on site tours but outside of school hours. It is best to check each school's website for exact times and arrangements.

I do have a message from one of our parents, Penny, who has not only been through the process and is about to again but is now a champion of Sedgehill so she would like to share this message:

Hi I am Penny, my son Alex is in year 6 and my daughter in year 9 at Sedgehill. I have been really pleased with how my school has supported her academic experience and the school approach to nurturing wellbeing. I am a Parent Champion for the school and would be happy to answer questions you might have or share more about our experiences, I can also connect you with other parent champions if helpful. You can email me at pen.marshall@gmail.com

Beckenham Place Park

There is a lovely story map event being held at Beckenham Place Park which I think lots of the children would enjoy. Ms Clarke and one of our governors, Allison, have forwarded me the link.

https://www.tdlp.co.uk/storymap/?utm_source=London%20Borough%20of%20Lewisham&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11815273_COVID-19%20110920&dm_i=402,718Q1,AW5PVR,SDS0R,1

Children Suffering From Anxiety

I am delighted that a few parents have taken up the offer of a 5 week course run by the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust. It is not too late to let me know if you are interested. We have to do a referral for you by 30th September.

Child Flu Nasal Spray

I am really pleased to be able to tell you that the NHS are continuing this year with their Flu Nasal Spray vaccination programme. Although children are not supposed to be super spreaders of COVID, they are known to be super spreaders of flu. This year, more than ever, it is vital we protect our older population from the flu by getting the young immunised. **Please note contrary to social media no child can be vaccinated without your consent.** The whole programme is predicated on parental consent. We do not have the date yet, as soon as we do I will let you know.

Sand-tastic Wrap Around Care

Sand-tastic breakfast and after school club is going really well. Every time I visit the children are having a fantastic time. They are so busy and well entertained. The food looks great too, I went in to try and steal some the other evening but I had missed it. There are still plenty of spaces so if you need full or part time places please contact the school office.

Food Bank

I would really like to say a huge thank you to Rob and all those that are keeping our food bank going. Thank you for all your generous donations too. It really has made such a huge difference to so many of our families and I know I speak for them all when I say a heartfelt thank you. What a fantastic community we have. Please keep those donations coming in as we are hoping to keep it going for a few more weeks.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Yours truly

Mrs R A Dove