

Friday 26th March



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Social Media Usage

As children are currently unable to socialise out of school due to COVID-19 restrictions, children are relying more and more on social media to connect with and talk to friends and peers. Unfortunately, we are hearing more instances where children are being unkind to each other on social media. WhatsApp is particularly causing upset to children by the formulation of groups which once established, are then being used as a means to exclude some children. We have been informed by parents about the use of inappropriate language on these group chats too. I would like to remind all parents that the age limit for WhatsApp is 16+. If your child uses WhatsApp, we would recommend that it is deleted. If your decision is that they are able to use it regardless of the age limit, we ask that you regularly monitor conversations on your child's phone. With the newsletter this week, is a helpful guide to age restrictions on the popular social media apps which may be used by your children, a WhatsApp parent and carer guide from National Online Safety. Where there are issues between children on WhatsApp, we would always encourage parents / carers to liaise with other parents / carers rather than directly with other children. School, via class teachers, can be informed about any online issues outside of school but ultimately, it is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure they are aware of their child's behaviour online and that it is appropriate and kind.

PE Day Change - Y4 children

Due to us finishing for the Easter break on Thursday of next week, we have moved Y4 PE day to Monday. Year 4 should therefore wear PE Kit on **Monday**.

Testing of Primary Aged Children

I would like to support parents by offering clarification regarding the testing required for primary aged pupils. Public Health England have issued new guidelines stating that primary aged children are not included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme and that Lateral Flow Device Testing (LFD Tests) are not appropriate and should not be used as a means of testing children within this age range. If a child is symptomatic or deemed unwell with other less common symptoms, the children should be tested via a PCR test. These can be booked via the following link:

[Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus)

If a parent is unable to take the child for a PCR test, school is able to provide a home PCR test kit to support parents in this process. Attached is a letter from Salford offering further detail and explanation on the testing requirements.

Home Learning / Remote Learning Allocation

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents that if your child is absent from school due to COVID related reasons, work will be automatically allocated via Seesaw. If your child is unwell, completion of this is obviously not expected. The allocation and feedback is being coordinated by Mrs Sequeira-Jennings for the whole school. If you have any queries please feel free to contact the class teacher.

World Down Syndrome Day

Thank you to all the children who wore mismatched socks in support of our Down Syndrome awareness day. The children spent time designing a pair of mismatched socks and reflecting upon how we are all individual and unique.



Isolation Payments

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a 'Test and Trace Support Payment' or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period
- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

If appropriate, an application can be made via the following link:

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/benefits/test-and-trace-support-payments/>

Dogs at Drop Off and Collection Time

Could I please ask parents to be mindful that we do have some children who are afraid of dogs and who become incredibly anxious and afraid when having to pass dogs, even when they are on a lead. Whilst I understand that we cannot stop parents bringing dogs along on the school run, I would ask that they be considerate when passing children on the narrow pathways. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.



Red Nose Day - Friday 19th March

Thank you to all the families who supported us on our Red Nose Charity Day last week. In total, we collected £951 in donations.