

Newsletter

25th February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

It seems such a long time since we were together in school but, at last, we can begin to look forward to the return on Monday 8th March. Although schools are returning, I think we all appreciate that this is just the first step in the long journey to full recovery and I was not surprised to read that there will be little change in the way schools must operate once they reopen.

I know that some of the measures that have been in place since last June for some families, and September for others, are not always convenient and the strict segregation of bubbles within school is difficult for everyone. However, we have to accept that these will be with us for some time yet. In brief, we shall continue to:

- Have staggered timings for the arrival and departure of each bubble;
- Operate a bubble system whereby children from different classes do not mix;
- Organise classrooms so that children sit side by side and facing the front of the classroom;
- Limit the sharing of equipment and ensuring that shared equipment is regularly cleaned;
- Ensure everyone washes their hands on arrival in school and at regular intervals throughout the day;
- Clean frequently-touched surfaces thoroughly before school starts and throughout the day;
- Operate a strict 'Catch it, bin it, kill it' approach to control the spread of virus 'aerosols' from coughing and sneezing;
- Limit the number of visitors to the school site and ensure that those who do visit provide information to support the NHS Test and Trace service.

In addition, members of staff are now advised to wear face coverings in communal areas such as corridors, although this advice will be subject to review at Easter.

The revised Uffington Plan for the control of COVID19 will be shared with governors and staff on Monday 1st March, and will then be shared with you via Parentmail and the school website.

We know that while some children are very excited about the return to school, others might be feeling quite anxious after such a long time away, and I would like to reassure you that we shall be mindful of this as we make the transition back into the routines associated with

being in school. Every class will have dedicated time to explore mental health and well-being each week and, as always, class teachers will be available to discuss any worries you might have.

I am pleased to let you know that Reach for the Stars will operate from Monday 8th March and I know that Sharalyn and Will are keen to be back in school and caring for your children.

We have also been in touch with the Farm Kitchen and can confirm that hot school meals will be available from 8th March.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Next Thursday, 4th March, is World Book Day and although we cannot celebrate in the usual way, each class will have some special activities to mark this event. I know how much the children love to dress up for World Book Day and would like to invite those who would like to, to dress up as a favourite character or similar as part of the day. This invitation is, of course, extended to those children who are attending school at present.

MERITS

This week's Merits will take place at the usual time of 2:30pm on Friday.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72809608097?pwd=MHdPSjMxZlJudFRtdFdiV1VFOEEyUT09>

Meeting ID: 728 0960 8097

Passcode: Merits

Everyone Welcome!

WORSHIP WITH FR ARAN

Everyone is welcome to join Fr Aran on Zoom at 2:45pm on Monday:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83942623494?pwd=dmtBRWRGVzZ1TEdkckhkZnNrQXJIUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 4262 3494

Passcode: 236012

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This has been a difficult period for use all and I know that some children, even after a week's holiday, are flagging; the end of home learning is in sight but if you are struggling, please do not hesitate to contact your children's class teachers. We have been so impressed by your

dedication to supporting home learning and are grateful for all your hard work over recent months, but are happy to discuss ways to get your children through the last few days before they return to school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs HR Simms', written over a horizontal line that extends to the left.

Mrs HR Simms

Headteacher