

Headteacher Newsletter – January 2022

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This week has been a calm one. We have had only two positive Covid cases in children, which were caught before the term began, and no staff cases. With this in mind, we are hoping to go back to whole school mixing on Monday next week. This will mean that we can be together for assemblies, playtimes and lunchtimes. Life is very restrictive in terms of space when the children are all in Bubbles.

If you do have any LFTs at home, please can you test your child before school on Monday so that we know we have a clean bill of health before the school mixes again. I know tests are hard to come by. As a school, our order was placed 5 weeks ago and we are still waiting for it to arrive.

The new rules mean that children do not need to go for a PCR if they do have a positive LFT but they do need to isolate for 7 days until the LFT is negative. Hopefully, this means that attendance will be better this term with less days out isolating.

On Monday we have new play equipment being installed. It will go next to Monkey World and will be another climbing activity. It is called Puzzlewood Forest Circuit and is being funded from our Sports Premium Grant that we receive annually from the Government to ensure children are active. The contractors will be onsite from Monday to Wednesday so we may need to restrict access to the playground for those days.

A final reminder that the deadline for new Reception places for September 2022 is January 15th. Please make sure you have applied if you have a child eligible.

Dates for your diary:

10.1.22 Curriculum plans and homework sent out to parents
10.1.22 Clubs start for Spring Term
12.1.22 Forest School Y6
19.1.22 Forest school Y5
19.1.22 Roger Purdom Assembly
26.1.22 Forest School Y4
26.1.22 School Council Meeting
26-28.1.22 Book Fair
27.1.22 YR School Nurse Healthy Child Checks
2.2.22 Forest School Y3
3.2.22 Y6 Sea City Trip
4.2.22 SPH dance festival
8.2.22 Safer Internet Day
8.2.22 Visit from Zoolab (whole school)
9.2.22 Forest School Y2
10.2.22 Y3/4 Gym competition
14.2.22 Reception Class balance bikes
15.02.22 Y4 Fishbourne Trip
16.2.22 Forest School Y1
17.2.22 Visit from an Imam (whole school)
18.2.22 Last day of half term
28.2.22 INSET
1.3.22 First day of new half term

General info:

Website: All information is regularly updated on the school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk

Facebook: Please go on to our school website www.stphilipsarundel.org.uk and click on the Facebook icon. Click the 'like' button on the page to ensure you receive updates.

Instagram:

We have launched our school Instagram account. You can follow us on:
#st_philips_arundel

Ofsted: We are expecting the Ofsted report to be available for parents to read next week.

Catch up/booster sessions:

We will be running 10 weeks of extra sessions for those who have been identified as children who would benefit from some extra sessions in maths or English. These sessions will run before school or during the school day. Parents will receive an invitation to attend via email next week. These will not necessarily be the same children who accessed these sessions last year. Please make every effort to ensure your child is on time for the morning sessions. The children have been carefully selected as their teacher feels they will make good progress from these sessions. I know it is not always easy to manage arrival for 8.30am.

Hockey training:

Year 6 and Year 5 have been fortunate enough to have received hockey coaching from an outside provider for 6 weeks. They have two more sessions left. They do this on Wednesday afternoons.

Homework/reading:

Homework grids will be sent home in the next week. Please can you encourage your child to complete one activity from the grid each week (for Y1-6). This should be done carefully and with time spent on it. The homework book should be a book with best work in it. The new term is a good time to start afresh and prioritise the work each week. I know that all parents realise the importance of reading so again I'd like to remind you all how important it is that children read regularly at home. Every day ideally but at least 3 times per week. This is for children from Reception up to Year 6.

Houses:

House point scores for this week:

Houses	Weekly scores
Howard	330
Brotherton	328
Warrenne	344
Fitzalan	289

Orchestra/choir:

Orchestra and choir will rotate each week on Tuesday afternoons within the school day. Mrs Morris will start orchestra this half term and let children know when they need to bring in their instrument to school. Choir will continue on the alternate Tuesday.

Picture books to shout about:

Every year, we take part in this WSCC library initiative. The children hear 4 different stories and discuss their content and their views on the book. Each class then votes for their favourite. These are then collated as an overall winner for the school. We send off our winning choice and find out on World Book Day which book was chosen as the overall winner from all the other schools who have also participated. We usually choose the winning title but who knows if we will this year?

Birthday sweet treats:

I know it is nice to celebrate birthdays with treats but there are some children who are not able to have sweets or cake. Therefore, can we ask that you do not send sweets or cake into school for the class when it is your child's birthday. Children are welcome to come to the office on their birthday to be given a birthday sticker.

Events:

In an attempt to get back to pre Covid times, we have booked a number of events for the coming term:

A visit from an Imam (Islamic religious leader)
 Zoolab visit for the whole school (funded by The Big Raffle)
 Y4 trip to Fishbourne Roman Palace
 Y5 trip to The Planetarium
 Y6 trip to Seacity