



## WE'RE ALL BACK AT SCHOOL!!!!

*It has been a brilliant week as we have now welcomed back all year groups, with the exception of our new Reception children. A huge thank you to parents, carers and the children for following the new routines so well.*

## STAFF NEWS

We are very pleased to inform you that Mrs Casey is expecting a baby girl, due in January 2021. Congratulations from us all to Mr and Mrs Casey. We welcome Mrs Elin Davies as a Graduate Teacher in Warriors Class.

Miss Howes has resigned from her role of Teaching Assistant in Thinkers Class and is now a Graduate Teacher completing her Initial Teacher Training this year at Blackthorns in our new Thinkers Class. Mrs Lydia Lee will now be the full-time Teaching Assistant in Thinkers and Mrs Kerry Cole has also joined us as a Teaching Assistant within our Key Stage 1 team. We also welcome Miss Chloe Osborne, who has joined our site team. We hope all members of staff will be very happy in their new roles.

## CURRICULUM CHANGES

Due to the guidelines in place there are still a number of activities that we are not able to do safely in school, such as trips and visits (including swimming lessons). We have also had to adapt some elements of the curriculum. For example, the children will now have Music and Spanish/French on alternate weeks, but lessons will be for an hour rather than half an hour as they were previously. Therefore, the curriculum covered will be the same, but it allows us to reduce the number of classes that Mrs Moffatt and Mrs Robinson teach each week. The new arrangements have been working very well so far.

## TREETOPS

Treetops breakfast and after school club is now re-open, with a later closing time of 6.30pm. I would like to thank Treetops for working so closely with us on the many different restrictions in place. The children at Treetops are enjoying spending time outside, as usual. We loved this photo of Theo, who made his own bow and arrow in the woodland area.



## LUNCHESES/ SPECIAL DIETS/ MEDICAL CONDITIONS

We are hopeful that we will be in a position to resume hot meals service later this half term. However, if your child has developed a new allergy or dietary requirements during the time they have been away from school, please contact Mrs Day in the academy office for a special menu form. Additionally, if your child has any new medical conditions, please also contact us to discuss this and how we can support within school.

## DIARY DATES

Mon 14th Sept: Start The Year Meetings  
Mon 21st Sept: Children move into new year groups  
Mon 21st Sept: New Reception children begin to phase in  
Mon 19th Oct: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)  
Wed 21st Oct: Parents' Consultation Meetings (3.30-6.30pm)

## COVID-19

This continues to dominate everything that we do in school and the world in general. However, I must continue to remind you of the key points:

- (i) **book a test** if you or anyone in your household is displaying symptoms. Pupils must not come into the school if anyone in their household has symptoms and they must be sent home to self-isolate if they develop them in school. If the test is negative, the child may return to school.
- (ii) **provide details** of anyone you have been in close contact with if you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) or if asked by NHS Test and Trace.
- (iii) **self-isolate** if you have been in close contact with someone who develops coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms or someone who tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

The main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Get a test to check if you have coronavirus and stay at home until you get your result.

## START THE YEAR MEETINGS

As you will know from the information sent out, Start The Year Meetings will take place virtually on Monday 14th September. This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher and hear about plans for the year. A Microsoft Teams invite will be sent via email.

## #BEKIND

Following the children's return to school we have been having a focus on kindness and have been exploring the impact that an act of kindness can have on others.

The children will be having a number of assemblies each week. Currently the guidance prevents us from getting all of the children together in the school hall, so we have introduced virtual assemblies using Microsoft Teams. This week I have asked the academy staff to keep their eyes peeled for acts of kindness which will be recognised in our Friday Celebration Assembly. The children might show kindness to their teachers, friends, parents, siblings, or even themselves!

Thu 22nd Oct: Academy closes for half term break  
Fri 23rd Oct: INSET Day (Academy closed)  
2nd Nov: Children return to school  
3rd Nov: Individual/ siblings photos (no pre-school siblings)  
23rd Nov: Flu vaccinations (forms to be sent in due course)