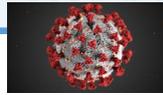




COVID-19

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.

THE BLACKTHORNS TOY AND MODEL MUSEUM

The children in Inventors Class had a really special day this week when they visited the Blackthorns Toy and Model Museum, to enrich their topic learning. Previously, our Year 1 classes have visited the Brighton Toy Museum during this topic and, as this was not possible this year, the Inventors Team created the event here in school so that the children could enjoy and understand more about their topic. The children came dressed as toys and learnt about toys from the Victorian Times right up to the toys of today. They had a very enjoyable day and I would like to thank the Year 1 team for creating this brilliant experience.



PUPIL LEADERSHIP ROLES

In today's Celebration Assembly, we will be announcing our pupil leadership roles. Each year we have nominations and elections from staff to identify the Head Boy/Girl and Deputy Head Boy/Girl. In addition, we also announce the new House Captains, who have applied for selection and presented a speech to the rest of the pupils in the academy. Following this, the children in all the other year groups vote for their house captains. These children have very important roles within the academy and are excellent role models to our younger children.

DIARY DATES

1st Dec: Christmas card drop-off point opens
7th Dec: Christmas activities begin in school
11th Dec: Christmas Jumper Day

What's Great?

Trailblazers have been completing some diary writing linked to their World War Two topic, using their class text 'Rose Blanche'.

Globetrotters Class performed their political speeches via Microsoft Teams to parents last week. They were absolutely amazing—so eloquent and confident and they identified some really interesting issues for their policies.

Ground-breakers Class have been looking at Disney song lyrics in their reading lessons, including 'Let It Go' and 'Under The Sea'.

Warriors have had a brilliant week! They have been using column methods for addition and have been completing some writing about rocks.

Explorers had a very interesting talk from Mrs Jago all about scuba diving. They asked some very interesting questions and learnt a lot about diving.

Inventors Class had a wonderful day at the 'Blackthorns Toy and Model Museum'. They came to school dressed as toys and learnt lots during the day.

Thinkers Class have worked very hard to learn the story of 'Supertato' and have now innovated the story together to create 'Super Watermelon'!

The children in The Hive have had a wonderful mathematical week.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

A reminder that we will be celebrating Christmas in school from Wednesday 7th December 2020 with a wide range of different activities for the children. We will be celebrating Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11th December and will collect donations, as we always do, for Save The Children. Rev Stuart Silk will be joining us virtually for an assembly during the last week of term. We are also working hard to facilitate the swapping of Christmas cards as we know how much the children enjoy this tradition. The Christmas card drop-off boxes will be available in the playground between 1st and 11th December and the cards will then be handed out during the last week of term.



Well done to the following children, who have received a Head Teacher's Award and been written into my special Gold Book since the last newsletter: Luisa (Explorers), Zoe (Inventors), Lottie (Inventors), Poppy (Inventors), Eleanor (Inventors), Joel (Trailblazers), Memphis (Trailblazers) and Max (Trailblazers).



REMOTE LEARNING

Our children (and their parents/carers!) became very accustomed to remote learning between March and July this year. Inevitably, we have had families self-isolating for different reasons during the last few weeks and these families have continued to access remote learning from class teachers. During the last week or so we have also, with the support of some very helpful parents/carers, begun to pilot the use of live-streamed lessons in some year groups. This has been a very valuable learning experience for us, both in terms of the children's learning and the technology involved. We are very much at the start of our journey with this and we would like to thank the children and parents/carers that have supported our learning process!

11th Dec: Deadline for bringing in Christmas cards
14th Dec: Raffle draw
18th Dec: Last Day of Term—break up for Christmas holidays