



### COVID Update

We continue to have COVID cases throughout the school. Thank you very much for continuing to follow the Warn and Inform guidance and for taking note of the Extended Symptoms guidance.

A reminder of the steps you should take should your child or anyone in your household display symptoms.

Main Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a new continuous cough</li> <li>• a high temperature</li> <li>• a loss of, or change in, taste or smell (anosmia)</li> </ul>	<p>Your whole household should isolate.</p> <p>You must book a PCR test for all members of your household.</p>
Extended Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General weakness</li> <li>• Sore throat</li> <li>• Shortness of breath</li> <li>• Diarrhoea</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Chills</li> <li>• Muscle pain</li> <li>• Runny nose</li> <li>• Dry or productive cough</li> </ul>	<p>The person with symptoms should isolate and you should book a PCR test for them.</p> <p>There is no need for the rest of the household to isolate or book a PCR test unless the symptomatic person returns a positive PCR test.</p>

If you choose for members of your household not to be PCR tested, you should instead self-isolate for ten days and let us know so we know when your child(ren) will return to school.

If you have any queries about testing or isolation guidance, please contact us via the school office.

Parents should continue to maintain social distancing as much as possible at drop off and pick up time and we ask that you continue to wear a face covering.

### School Improvement

Last session our school improvement was focussed in two main areas. Firstly, as was the case for every school, COVID recovery was a priority and remains so this session. Additional government funding was used to provide additional support for learning across the school and this will continue during this school session too. Secondly, we began to evaluate digital learning across the school. We created learning progressions and acceptable use guidelines whilst also upgrading and adding to our IT hardware provision with the purchase of 164 Chromebooks which are now in use throughout the school.

This session, our school improvement will focus on three main areas

- Maths – Reviewing current teaching and learning of Mathematics across the school, developing a revised whole school approach, upskilling staff and extending existing resources.
- Digital Learning – Continuing the work we started last year. Staff development opportunities and parental workshops. Promoting children as digital leaders in school and developing a strategy to promote online safety.

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- Outdoor Learning – Reviewing our existing approaches to Outdoor Learning and current good practice across the school. Developing a whole school approach, guidance and resources for teaching and learning outdoors.

### Homework

Homework for all children from P1-7 will be shared via Google Classroom. Homework will be issued on a Wednesday and will be due in the following Wednesday. Children will receive one Literacy and one Numeracy task each week. Homework will begin in Week 2 of each term and the last homework of the term will be due in during the penultimate week of each term.

### A Few Wee Reminders

We appreciate that there is limited space at the Early Stages Gate on Commercial Road so would encourage parents not to gather at morning drop off time. The playground is supervised by Mrs Holland from 9.00am each day.

As the weather becomes more autumnal, please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for any weather. We aim to be outside in all but the worst of weathers so all children should have a jacket each day.

We encourage children to drink water regularly during the day and children are welcome to bring a water bottle each day. A reminder that named water bottles should be filled with water only and not juice.

For health and safety reasons, no dogs are permitted on school grounds.

### School Uniform

We expect all children from P1-7 to wear school uniform to school each day. School uniform consists of

- dark grey trousers/skirt/shorts/dresses/pinafores
- red gingham dresses
- white shirt/polo shirt
- red sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan

If purchasing school uniform is a financial challenge in any way, please remember that we have a selection of pre-worn school uniform in school. This has been washed and we are very happy to distribute this as required.

We can also support families by reaching out to other agencies on your behalf should you require support with other things such as school shoes, school bags, gym kits or for times where you may require food parcels. Please get in touch with us if we can help in any way.

### Seesaw

We are delighted to let you know that we are now able to resume using Seesaw as one way of our children sharing their learning with parents/carers.

Seesaw is a secure online learning journal where children can create and upload their work to document their learning. Children can share photos, videos, worksheets, drawings and voice

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recordings via their Seesaw Journal. Seesaw Journals are private and are only accessible by the teacher, children and parents.

In order to continue using Seesaw, we have had to switch to using a paid subscription and are in the process of setting this up. As part of this process, all previous data and accounts will be deleted by Seesaw so new accounts can be created. If you were previously connected to your child's account, you may wish to download and save any of your child's previous work which you wish to keep. You may receive an email from Seesaw about this too. Once Seesaw have deleted the old profiles, we will be able to set up new profiles for each child and will share information about how to connect with your child's new account as soon as we can.

### Loose Parts Play

As we look to extend our Outdoor Learning opportunities and Learning Through Play, we hope you can help us gather some Loose Parts Play resources. The list attached at the bottom of this newsletter is an indication of the sorts of things we are looking for. If you are able to donate anything, these can be put in the large box outside the School Office door or handed to Mrs Holland or Miss Harper in the playground each morning.

### Evening Express Pounds for Primaries

We plan to take part in Evening Express Pounds for Primaries this year and we need your help! If you buy an Evening Express, please collect the tokens which will appear in the newspaper between Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November and send them in to school. They will be giving away £15,000 and the more tokens we collect, the more money we can gain for the school.

### School Calendar

Our school calendar is currently being finalised and will be shared with you all shortly. All being well, we plan to have Online Parent Consultations in the last week of this term. Further information about this to follow soon.

### Our Community

The Stitch House are running a Youth Café each Saturday night from 7.00 - 9.00pm and would like to welcome P6 and P7 children to join them. This is an opportunity to meet up with friends and enjoy a cake and some juice.

Yours sincerely

Carol Harper

Head Teacher

## Suggested Loose Parts Play List

Slices of wood	Old chopping boards	Pallets	Hammocks
Logs of various heights	Steering wheels	Shower curtains	String
Willow or hazel rods at least 1.5m long	Computer keyboards	Quick drying materials fleece	Twine
Sticks of various lengths	Water canisters	Organza	Wool
Cones	Acrylic mirrors	Tarpaulins	Plastic washing line
Stones and pebbles	Ladders	Nets	Shoe laces
Aluminium and foil products	Car number plates	Wood cut offs	Guy rope
Clay	Kitchen utensils	Cable drums or reels	Karabiners
Milk and bread crates	Pots and pans	Wooden furniture, including boxes and crates	Ribbons
Buckets	Ladles	Wooden picture frames	Pegs
Bilge, hand or other pumps	Mashers	Cork items	Bandages
Tubing and hoses	Sieves	Willow baskets	Large stretchy elastic
Guttering	Cake/muffin trays	Bamboo guttering	Tent pegs
Plumber's pipes	Shower/curtain rings	Velcro	Bubble wrap
Funnels	Old CDs	Duct tape, masking tape	Pulleys
Sponges	Old suitcases	Foam or rubber covered wire	Fake grass cut offs
Plastic sheets	Trolleys on wheels	Old clothes for dressing up - jackets, suits, waistcoats handbags, quick dry scarves	Foam and sponges
Trays	Whisky barrel planters	Garden mats	Little storage bags
Corrugated plastic	Decking and planks of wood	Bubble wrap	

“A ‘loose parts’ toy, is open-ended; children may use it in many ways and combine with other loose-parts through imagination and creativity. Nature, which excites all the senses, remains the richest source of loose parts.”

