



For the first time since the pandemic began last year, we have had a significant amount of positive Covid cases at our school. We have been lucky to avoid this so far, with considerable outbreaks in most other Trust schools. We know that this is a worrying time for the whole school community but we have been in daily consultation with the Public Health team at Somerset County Council to ensure that we are following the appropriate guidance.

Neither Public Health nor the school wish to close any classes, so it is about being cautious and sensible while also allowing children to still have as many opportunities as possible to learn and have the usual school experiences. We are already carrying out the majority of the additional measures suggested, but will increase cleaning regimes even further over the next week. We have also been advised to keep the infant and junior classes in separate bubbles from each other. We are checking our CO2 monitors regularly to ensure that there is adequate ventilation in the classrooms and are continuing to reinforce hand hygiene.

A reminder that unless your child is isolating because they have currently tested positive with Covid, or are waiting for a test result, then we will not be providing work for them. If your child is not well enough to be in school with another illness, then they should be resting at home until they are well enough to return. If parents/carers are choosing to isolate their children for any other reason (unless advised by a specialist or clinician that they should take additional precautions) then no work will be set and any absence will be recorded as unauthorised; this is in line with DFE guidelines.

We held the second of our Christmas Tree sales last weekend and welcomed many people into the school playground to choose their perfect tree for their Christmas celebrations. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the tree sales this year: staff, their families, parents and the community. We will let you know of the final total when we have it.

Apologies for any confusion regarding our Carols by Candlelight. We had originally set two dates for this, but due to staff phonics training this week, we had to schedule it on the second of those dates (Wednesday 15th December) which we put in last week's newsletter. The children have been busy preparing some songs and carols and we hope many of you will be able to join us in the playground and even sing along! We are still hoping to go ahead with this event but due to the pupil absence will make a final decision on Monday.

We are planning to record the nativity next week and send the link to all the parents of children in Kingfisher and Starling class by the last day of term. If you haven't done so already, please make sure that your child's consent form has been returned so that they can be filmed as part of the performance.

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has given money to Dorothy House following last week's Elf Run. You have raised over £600 which is fantastic!

Mrs Phillips



Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2

Each week starting on Monday 1st November

Monday	<u>After school</u> Sunflower Club
Tuesday	<u>AM</u> - PE for children in Robins and Kingfishers with Mr Groves <u>PM</u> - PE for children in Starlings and Goldfinches with Mr Groves <u>After school</u> Archery Club with Mr Groves
Wednesday	<u>PM</u> - PE for children in Swallows
Thursday	<u>PM</u> - Swimming for Goldfinch and Swallow Class <u>After school</u> - Yoga Club

December

Wed 15th	Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch Carols by candlelight at school 4.30pm
Fri 17th	End of Term 2

Covid Update

We will continue to keep you updated each week on any developments at school regarding Covid.

We now have some cases of Covid within the school (with several in Goldfinches and Swallows) and therefore we have put in some extra restrictions as documented above. Staff are now wearing masks in communal indoor areas of the school. We also have CO2 monitors in the classrooms to help us decide when extra ventilation is needed and to find a happy balance between ventilation and temperature.

We have had many requests for work for children who are not in school for various reasons. Please note the following which is applicable to all schools regarding remote learning:

My child is awaiting a PCR result - work will be provided by the school

My child has Covid - work will be provided, but only needs to be completed should your child feel well enough

My child is ill (other illness) - work will not be provided as your child is not well enough to be in school

My child is not attending as we think it is not safe due to Covid - no work will be provided

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this.