



Sowing the Seeds for Success - With God Nothing is Impossible

Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2020

Thank you to all of our children and their families who have enabled us to start the term safely and smoothly by cooperating with us and following new rules and procedures. We understand that it is very frustrating that parents/carers are being asked to have their child tested if they have one of the key symptoms of coronavirus but we must follow Government guidance to ensure everyone's safety. We also appreciate how frustrating the testing system is at the moment, with so many people having huge difficulties in getting a test so thank you for your patience and cooperation.

For clarity, the following is the most recent guidance for schools about when a test is required: Any child with one of the COVID symptoms (new continuous cough, temperature, loss/change in sense of taste or smell) should be tested, even if you think your child has symptoms of a cold. They must remain at home until they receive their test result.

School Council

Last week, children who wanted to be considered for School Council, spoke to their classes about why they would be a good School Council Representative and each class voted for their new School Council reps. This year, Miss Thompson will be supporting the School Council and I know that she and the children are keen to get to work. Congratulations to all of our School Council Representatives.

Year 1 – Kian and Neve
Year 2 – Ronnie and Raya
Year 3 – Ben and Millie
Year 4 – Melody and Lucas
Year 5 – Poppy and Callum
Year 6 – Charlie and Connie

Eco-Committee

Next week we will aim to have our first Eco Committee meeting of the term. Eco-Committee members will remain from the previous year and will continue to work on the projects that they had started last year before the school closure. Sadly, meetings will need to look a bit different this term and we won't be able to meet with our parent/carer members of the committee. However, we will look into how we might be able to do this virtually once we are up and running.

Scarecrow Festival

We are looking forward to seeing lots of creative scarecrows at the weekend and would like to thank everyone who has made the effort to make a scarecrow for the festival. I have really enjoyed seeing the different class scarecrows being made around the school this week and look forward to seeing individual entries on Sunday.

I have a list of people who will be bringing scarecrows into school on Sunday and these people have been notified of their drop off times. If you have not yet arranged a time slot but would like to do this, please get in touch via Dojo or email to request one. Winners for the two categories (pupils and



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members of the public) will be announced on Monday and photographs will be taken for the newspaper on Sunday.

On Monday, each class will have the chance to view all of the scarecrows in school. To make this a bit more special we will be selling cake on the day that can be bought for 30p a slice as a special Scarecrow Festival treat. The children will then be able to eat this while they view the scarecrows.

Unfortunately, as it will be difficult to enable parents and carers to view the scarecrows safely and easily on the school site, we will be unable to organise viewings for this year's festival. However, we will take lots of photographs which will be shared on Dojo and on the school's website.

Reading and Reading Books

This week we have restarted our Reading Challenge to promote reading across the school. Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Congratulations to Year 5 who have won the challenge this week, with 89% of the class reading at least 5 times this week.

E Safety

Please see below a link that will open up the recent podcast that the Two Johns recorded for the Essex, Thurrock and Southend Safeguarding Children's Boards. They talk about Child Produced Sexual Imagery and in particular talk about how parents' response to any situation is critical to the ongoing wellbeing of the child.

<http://ow.ly/UF6V50B4upu>



School Photographs

Don't forget that our photographer will be visiting to take individual school photographs on Monday.

Earrings

Please could we remind everyone that children should not wear earrings on days when they have PE. Unfortunately, due to health and safety regulations, children are unable to participate in PE lessons if they are wearing earrings. If children do wear earrings at other times, these must only be one pair of small earring studs.

Change in Weather

Now that the weather is changing, please could we remind everyone to remember to bring their coats to school.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

Teachers are busy preparing their filmed 'Meet the Teacher' sessions for you to view. You should receive information about these in the next week.

Clubs

Although we cannot currently run clubs in the usual way this term, we are considering starting a limited number of clubs for children from the same bubble. We will send out information about this once we have decided what it will be possible to offer.



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Parent Consultations

As mentioned in the last newsletter, our Parent Consultations in November will be held over the phone this year. We have timetabled set days for each class and teachers will be released to speak to parents/carers on these days for 10 minute sessions. Please do not worry if you are unable to have a telephone conversation on one of these days as, providing there are not too many people who cannot do the set day, we may be able to arrange an alternative time for you to speak to your child's teacher. In the next couple of weeks we will be sending out a form to be completed (via email) for you to indicate whether there are any times on the given day that you are unable to do. Once these are returned, telephone sessions will be organised and you will be informed of these. Appointments will be available between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm with a break over lunch.

Mrs Natasha Bennett
Headteacher

Diary Dates 2020-21

Date	Event
Monday 28 th September	School Photographs
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of the first half of the Autumn Term
Monday 26 th October	HALF TERM
Monday 2 nd November	Pupils return to school
Week Commencing 9 th November	Parent Consultation telephone meetings
Friday 27 th November	NON PUPIL DAY
Friday 18 th December	Last day of the Autumn Term for pupils
Monday 4 th January	NON PUPIL DAY
Tuesday 5 th January	Children return to school