



Southville Primary School Newsletter



7th January 2022

 @Southville_Prim

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a peaceful and restful holiday and managed to avoid the various illnesses that were floating around. It was great to welcome the children back to school on Wednesday and it has been a really lovely week and a very positive start to term.

Tuesday's Inset Day... At Tuesday's Inset Day we continued our Values work, and then worked in Key Stage teams to make final preparations for the new reading approach we are introducing this term (more info about this coming soon!). In the afternoon we had the official launch of our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) project. And while all of this was going on, some staff were refreshing their safeguarding and first aid training! It was a busy day but it has set us up for a really exciting Spring term of developments which we are looking forward to sharing more news of in the coming weeks.

Covid Guidance... As you may be aware, there are some changes to the national covid guidance either in place or imminent. I thought it might be useful to summarise the guidance below:

ONGOING: Covid symptoms must be followed up with a PCR test

NEW: if you/your child is symptom-free and gets a positive lateral flow result you do not have to get a follow-up PCR test but should begin the 10 day self-isolation period.

NEW: Children and double vaccinated adults can end the 10 day isolation period after 7 days provided they have had two negative lateral flow results 24 hours apart on the 6th and 7th day and do not have a temperature.

From 11th January: Identified close contacts who are children or double vaccinated do not have to isolate provided they have daily negative lateral flow tests and remain symptom-free (if symptoms develop, isolation begins immediately).

We have updated our warn and inform letter to reflect these changes and you can also read the guidance directly here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Covid-related Planning... You will be aware that we return to school against a backdrop of national uncertainty regarding current covid rates and what the next few weeks will hold. To reassure you, I wanted to let you know that we are planning for two possible implications of an increase in cases:

1. **Increasing covid cases in school:** We will soon be sharing an overview of our updated covid response plan so you have clarity over how in-school measures will be stepped up if we get a cluster of cases in one class, classes or multiple year groups.
2. **Reduction in staffing levels:** Autumn term brought with it huge pressures on staffing due to the usual illness-related absence, covid-related illness and isolation periods compounded by the impact of both of these factors on the availability of supply staff. Mr Potter and Mr Commander are brilliant at coming up with creative solutions and our staff team are relentlessly flexible and resilient, however if staffing levels reduce to a critical level at any point this term we may be forced to implement short term solutions. Next week I will share with you what these solutions may be so that you are as well-informed as possible. In line with the government guidance, we will do everything we possibly can to ensure the children remain in school, but may have to scale down aspects of our usual provision for a short period of time.

Sorry for the strong Covid theme this week but I hope it's useful!

Have a lovely weekend, Andy Bowman

Thank you... On behalf of Mr Thomas and Mr Smith and all of us who love our chickens, thank you very much to the families who offered to look after them over the holiday period. We are really grateful and hope you enjoyed spending time with them!

Current Covid Cases... This is a new standing item to keep you informed of the number of cases across the school each week. We will usually take into account all cases confirmed within the last 10 days. Today we are looking at the period since school resumed on 5.1.22.

Nursery: 0
Reception: 0
Year 1: 0
Year 2: 0
Year 3: 0
Year 4: 0
Year 5: 0
Year 6: 0



Nursery...

Happy New Year to our lovely Seahorse Class and families!

It has been great to see those smiley Seahorse faces again, and to hear your news from your Christmas break.

We have some new Seahorse friends joining us this term, and we are really proud of how welcoming everyone has been this week.

We continue to make use of our outside area as much as possible to play and explore, so as the weather has become colder, please make sure all children have warm (and labelled) clothes to wear.



Reception...

We hope you had a restful break and the children are ready for another jam-packed term! This term we are learning all about space and our focus during next week will be planets. More information on our topic will be sent next week.

Each week our children will be accessing resources from our continuous provision. Here are our specific focuses for the next week:

Area of Learning	Week beginning 10.01.22
Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never giving up• Zones of Regulation
Communication and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key vocabulary: planets, sun, moon, Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Uranus, Pluto, dwarf planet, telescope, gas giants, rocky planets, solar system
Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ball Skills - Throwing and Catching
Literacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus Text: Look Inside Space• Phonics - sh, th, ng, nk• Writing task - Writing planet facts• Reading Practice Sessions - guided reading in small groups
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparing mass and capacity
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planets• Forest School - Friday 14th Jan - Starfish Class• Experimental cookery - Starfish and Jellyfish this week (all children will participate on rotation)
Expressive Arts and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music - songs about planets• Paper mache planets• Forest School craft
Characteristic of Effective Learning focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating and Thinking Critically: Having your own ideas.

Forest School Information

A reminder of Forest School dates:

Friday 14th January - Starfish Class

Friday 21st January - Jellyfish Class

Friday 28th January - Octopus Class

Friday 4th February - Starfish Class

Friday 11th February - Jellyfish Class

Friday 18th February - Octopus Class

Please could the children bring in a spare pair of trainers/ shoes in their rucksack every time they go to Forest School. This is a request from the coach company so we can limit the amount of mud on the coach! Many thanks. Please continue to let your child's teacher know if you are available to volunteer for Forest School.

Request for newspaper

Next week we are making paper mache planets and we would love donations of newspapers! Thank you in advance!

Cont'd...

Reception cont'd...

Reading and phonics

We are really looking forward to sharing with you the school's approach to phonics and early reading. We will be inviting you to join a reading meeting this term to find out more. The date for this will be sent out shortly.

This term the children will take part in regular small group reading sessions using beautiful new books that have been newly resourced for the school. All information regarding reading will be sent out in due course.

Year 1...

Let's Play

The children have made a fantastic start to our new topic, 'Let's Play'. Thank you for your support in allowing them to bring in a toy for our hook day. We really enjoyed listening to the children talk about their toys and ask each other questions.

All the year 1 children have written a question to ask their grandparents/an older relative/neighbour in order to find out about the toys that they used to play with in the past. Please could you help your child make contact with the person they want to interview. They will get a chance to talk about what they have found out in class next week. The children are welcome to bring in any photos or notes if they wish, or these could be uploaded to Google classroom. (If you do not have access to Google classroom yet, please ask your child's class teacher for more information.)

Shoeboxes

Towards the end of our topic, we will be doing an activity requiring shoeboxes so if you have any at home, please keep hold of them for later in the term. Thank you.

P.E. days this term are:

Bears: Monday and Tuesday

Badgers: Monday and Wednesday

Butterflies: Wednesday and Thursday

Water bottles

A polite reminder to make sure your child brings a named water bottle every day to school.

Spellings

Spellings were sent home by email at the end of last term. Please help your child to practise these at home ready to be checked on Fridays.

Year 3...

What an exciting start to our Roman topic we have had! Thank you for all the fantastic effort that went into the costumes, as well as the food, for our delicious Roman banquet.

Our trip to the Roman Baths is on Friday 28th January. Please email the office if you are available to help on this trip.

Reminder: Bedminster Winter Lantern Parade has been postponed until Saturday 12th February. If you can no longer make that date, please let your class teacher know.

Please continue to check Google Classrooms regularly, for homework, spelling and times table grids for the term.

Year 4...

What a fabulous start year 4 have made to term 3! They've been so engaged by, and enthusiastic and knowledgeable about, our new 'Listen Up!' sound topic!

Swimming—please note the change of timings for the Kangaroo and Kiwi swimming sessions for the rest of term — information has been emailed to you by the teachers but essentially Kangaroos are now going at the beginning of Wednesday afternoons and Kiwis at the end.

Happy New Year from the Y4 team.

Year 6...

Hi Year 6 parents and carers,
as you are aware our Indoor PE sessions are on Thursday mornings. Due to this year 6 will have their DEAR (drop everything and read) sessions on Tuesday mornings. Please make sure that on these days your child brings their reading journal and reading book into school with them.

Many thanks
The Year 6 Team



Happy New Year from the PTA! Our first meeting is next **Wednesday 12th January at 7:30pm, in person at Myrtle**. I would love to see as many of you there as possible, if you choose to attend, please carry out a lateral flow test beforehand. I will still link the meeting via Zoom if you do not feel comfortable attending or are unable to make the meeting in person.

This is a great opportunity to be part of shaping the PTA's plans for 2022, everyone is welcome!

Zoom link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584041981?pwd=aVBPOGZ5aGk4MEdKTm44cG9pWXJWZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 8404 1981

Password: PTAz00m



Do you have any unwanted or duplicate Christmas gifts which are lurking around at home? Why not donate them to the PTA and we can use these for future fundraising events! I will put a donation box in the office at Merrywood and Myrtle from Monday. Please only donate new items – thank you! We will look to collect secondhand items later in the year.

What about Christmas jumpers? Have your children grown out of theirs from this year? We will be running a Christmas Jumper Sale next December; we would love to take these off your hands- please drop off to the same donation stations as above.

Feedback! I have created a quick survey for your thoughts on what you would like to see from the PTA across this year. I would be very grateful if you took a few minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/W2GM5MN>



Finally, a massive thank you to Liz Newton and Sonia Adams who have more or less added every book at Myrtle site to the new school library cataloguing system. There are over 1500 books!