



7th December 2021

Dear Parents,

Autumn Letter 26- Autumn Term 2021 – 2022

Thank you

Yesterday, I thanked the staff for covering classes and picking up responsibilities for other colleagues during their absence. The number of Covid-19 cases have fallen amongst the pupils however I am seeing more staff falling ill with the virus.

To date, I have managed to keep all core aspects of school operational plus offer remote learning for our pupils at home. This has increased the workload for all staff and indeed some members of staff are working in many different roles in order to keep the school open. It has been a difficult few weeks. I have not taken the decision to stop after school clubs earlier than planned or switch to virtual Christmas performances lightly, but with reduced staffing capacity, it has been necessary to do so.

The staff and I very much look forward to being able to offer a full range of enrichment activities once again after Christmas and thank you for your support at this time.

Staff Christmas Gifts

Following another difficult year for many people, the staff have asked that in lieu of teacher gifts they would like to collect for the Worcestershire Food Bank. Collection boxes will be outside school next week.

Covid-19 Update 15

Today's numbers are as follows:

Willow- 1 pupils 3 members of staff

Rowan- 11 pupils plus 1 member of staff

Hazel- 0 pupils

Oak- 2 pupils

Ash- 0 pupils

Cedar- 0 pupils

Maple- 0 pupils

Elm- 0 pupils

2 further members of staff are absent due to Covid related circumstances.

**Please note these are the reported and confirmed cases.*

The Local Outbreak Team continue to advise the following: 'If you think your child is a close contact but has not been contacted directly by NHS Test and Trace then they should take a PCR test'. I am keeping you informed of the situation as it develops, enabling you to be able to book and take a PCR test if there is a known case in your child's class. Please also book a PCR test if you have a positive Covid case in your immediate family. We are seeing that the LFT are not always identifying positive cases, with some pupils testing negative on LFTs and subsequently positive with a PCR test, so please do book a PCR test just to be on the safe side.



End of Term Activities

Many thanks to the PTA and other parents who have offered their time and support to organise a Christmas Fayre for the pupils. This event will be held on Wednesday 15th December. Due to Covid-19 we will be offering each bubble their own event. The PTA have worked hard behind the scenes to offer a selection of stalls and enjoyable activities that can be unpacked and enjoyed by the pupils on the day.

The pupils will also be able to enjoy their Christmas lunch on the same day and come to school dressed in a Christmas jumper.

We are also looking forward to the pupils entertaining us with Christmas songs and the Reception Nativity. These will be offered virtually this year so that everyone can enjoy them safely. The performances will be recorded and put on Seesaw for you to see.

Christmas Cards

The Christmas post-box will be available for the children to use from Monday 6th December. Please ensure that your child writes the recipient's name and class clearly on the envelope. The post-box will be stationed outside school every morning (along with some hand sanitiser). The cards will then be left in quarantine for 48 hours prior to distribution.

After School Clubs

All after school sports clubs have now finished. This is due to staff capacity. Teachers are currently preparing, setting and marking both remote and in-school provision. There are also 6 members of staff off work due to Covid, so the remaining team members are covering their tasks.

Our After School Club will continue. Pupils attending wrap around care are arranged in class groups (separate tables) within their wider key stage groups.

Statutory Phonics Screening Check

Schools are usually required to screen all Year 1 pupils in Phonics annually in the summer term. Due to Covid-19, this statutory check is now implemented in the autumn term (once the pupils are in Year 2). Last year, we were delighted with the outcome of 96% of our pupils passing the Phonics Screening Check. This was despite a disjointed year due to the pandemic. Mrs Marshall, is currently undertaking the check with Hazel Class and once again the results are looking very promising. This year our target is 100%!

Our chosen Phonics programme of Read, Write Inc. has enabled our pupils to gain very thorough early reading and writing skills, even during the lockdowns and periods of pupil isolation, as we have been able to offer differentiated RWI lessons on line.

DFE Guidance 28th November 2021:

Information for all education and childcare settings on new measures in response to the identification of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK

On Saturday 27 November, the Prime Minister announced new temporary measures following the emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in the UK. The new measures will be introduced as a precaution to slow down the spread of the variant while we gather more information.

Face coverings

Face coverings should be worn in communal areas in all settings by staff, visitors and pupils or students in year 7 and above, unless they are exempt. Pupils or students (in year 7 or above) should continue to wear face coverings on public and dedicated school transport, unless they are exempt.



Ofsted Report

I was really pleased to receive the draft Ofsted report earlier this week, following the inspection of NJK in November. As soon as the report has been finalised I will issue a copy to all families. Once again, many thanks for your ongoing support.

The following information was also included in the Warn and Inform Letter:

What to do if your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or tests positive for COVID-19

If your child develops symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, the child can end self-isolation; if positive, the child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If the child has a positive test result but do not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or by calling 119.

Finally, many of the pupil cases of Covid appear to be asymptomatic or manifesting as cold symptoms. However, I would just like to wish all of our pupils, staff and parents who might be feeling ill with coronavirus a speedy recovery. We look forward to all of our school community being back together soon to enjoy the exciting curriculum activities planned for the rest of the autumn term.

Kind regards

Mrs Dean
Headteacher