



8<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents,

### **Autumn Letter 27- Autumn Term 2021 – 2022**

#### **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. This year our target is 100%! All pupils in Hazel Class have now taken the screening check and achieved at least the 'working at' score from previous years, with many pupils scoring the full 40 marks! Well done to the staff and pupils.

#### **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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **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 16**

Today's numbers are as follows:

**Willow- 1 pupils 3 members of staff**

**Rowan- 12 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.*

#### **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.

### Christmas Cards

The Christmas post-box will be available for the children to use from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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.

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