

Friday, 30th October

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been for many of us seven weeks of great contrasts since we returned back in September. Hearing the children's laughter around the classrooms has brought a real warmth back in to the school and we never tire of seeing the children simply enjoying life in school.

Yet we have to balance that against taking great care to maintain the control methods that keep every member of the school community as safe as possible. Once again the children have taken to the expectations superbly, they have accepted the constant handwashing and bubbled classes as simply what we have to do.

We, as a school community, cannot become complacent despite the demands on everyone and we are determined to keep these high standards during the pandemic. We will always be cautious in our approach, taking on board the advice of Public Health England and the Department for Education but judging this against what we regard as the best, and safest, route for those in our community.

To that end we would like to thank all the support we have had from parents and carers with the school approach. In particular the request for mask use on school grounds has been followed by the vast majority which we greatly appreciate.

Returning to School on Monday, 2nd November

There are, of course, changes going on with the government's approach to Covid-19 on an almost daily basis. We understand that the government has prioritised schools to remain open whatever 'Tier' or 'Circuit Breaker' they decide on in the near future. To that end the school will continue the strong measures we have in place and will keep these under constant review if the guidance changes.

At this point in time school guidance has not changed and therefore school drop off and collection times, procedures and expectations remain the same as before the half term break.

We do believe that the children deserve every opportunity for the best education we can provide whatever the circumstances.

To that end we expect to see all children in school unless they are required to isolate by the guidance.

In those circumstances we will provide a home education programme through Seesaw. If a parent is having any trouble with access to this programme please get in contact with school to see if we can help. We know everyone's preference for work on paper but this is simply going to be impossible to achieve whilst teachers are providing work both in school and for those isolating.

If we are required to 'close' a class or 'bubbled classes' at any point by the guidance we will provide home learning immediately through Seesaw. This is most likely to happen for between 10 and 14 days and has been required in other schools within Derbyshire and the East Midlands, so please be prepared.

Winter and Handwashing

As we enter the cold months handwashing and use of sanitiser will become more of an issue for children and their skin. We cannot reduce the frequency of handwashing due to the risks Covid poses through surface transmission. It is essential that the children dry their hands thoroughly whenever they wash their hands as

this reduces the impact on their skin, especially in the cold. We would ask that you remind your children of this regularly. If your child does struggle with their skin during the coming months then please make sure the teacher is aware.

Snacks in School

The snacks brought in to school at the end of last term were much closer, in general, to the school food policy so thank you. Just as a reminder our school food policy recommends that children bring in:

fruit

dried fruit

vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks),

plain biscuits,

or cereal bars that are not chocolate or yoghurt based.

Most cheese based snacks such as Cheese Strings are fine.

Many parents wish to send in a drink, however fruit juices are only recommended alongside a main meal due to the level of sugar and the effect of fruit acids on teeth. We would recommend water, however a very low sugar flavoured water is acceptable. If you are not sure please ask the class teacher.

We aim to ensure children know about healthy options through this system. However, we know that reducing higher sugar based snacks/drinks has proven impact on pupils' concentration and focus in class especially in our school. This benefit cannot be underestimated as a calm and focused class learns at a much greater rate with fewer losses of concentration.

Please note that if a child is bringing snacks to school that do not meet the School Food Standards then we will offer an alternative and ask them not to bring it in again. Thank you for your support.

Pupil with Nut and Peanut Allergy

We are just reminding you that a child in Y6 has a severe peanut and nut allergy. The allergic reaction can vary in severity but in this case we need to be extremely careful with the foods this pupil comes in to contact with. There is a possibility that such contact, even at a minor level, could lead to ANAPHYLAXIS which unless treated immediately can be life threatening.

As many of you will already know peanuts and nuts may be present within many foods - even where they are not listed in the ingredients there is often there is a note saying that food may have been prepared in a factory containing nuts.

For the safety and care of our pupils, we would ask that you check the ingredients of any food you provide for **snack** or for **packed lunch** to ensure there are no peanuts or nuts present. The more careful you are the more we can protect the health and wellbeing of our pupils. Thank you for your support with this matter.

We look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday.

Take Care,



Headteacher and the Pilsley Staff Team

Dates

2nd November – first day back at school

13th November – Children in Need (tbc)

3rd December – Flu Immunisation

18th December – last day of term

2021

4th January – INSET Day – First Aid Training

5th January – INSET Day – GDPR Training

12th February – last day of term

22nd February – first day back at school

1st April (Thursday) last day of term

19th April – first day back at school

3rd May – Bank Holiday May Day (one day only)

All of May – Y2 SATs month

10th May to 13th May – Y6 SATs week

28th May – last day of term

7th June – first day back at school

25th June – INSET day

28th June – INSET day

13th & 14th July 2021 – Lea Green Residential (Year 1's day only on 13th, Y2 both days)

22nd July (Thursday) last day of term