



Newsletter

2020/21 Issue 2 – Friday 25th September 2020

A busy week

This week has certainly felt much busier than the previous two, although the number of children absent unwell has fallen dramatically. Hopefully, the first round of autumn colds is behind us.

Making that decision in the morning is tricky and recently I sent out guidance about what to do for different symptoms and illnesses. I have added this again to the end of this newsletter in case you missed it. So far, the decisions made seem to have been good ones.

In line with this guidance, our advice is that if your child is presenting with symptoms of common childhood illnesses: a runny nose, a sore throat or a headache, you should treat these as such. You will want to keep your child at home until they feel well enough to return to school. If your child is showing the symptoms of Covid-19 you will need to attempt to book a test and self-isolate the household. Again, more detail is at the end of the newsletter.

Science Visitors (virtually)

I was delighted last week when Miss Love asked me if we could have some virtual science “visitors” to classes using Microsoft Teams. She had found a number of local people engaged in scientific work willing to talk to classes this week and we have found this to be a great way of getting people in to talk to children – and much easier for our visiting experts who can talk from their desk at work with all their props easily to hand.

We shall definitely be doing this again...

Special Burger Lunch

Next Thursday is school census day – on this day, schools up and down the country make a data return to the DfE including the number of children in the school, who they are, what year groups and classes they are in and so on. We also have to tell them how many children had a school meal on census day. All of this data (including the number of meals, remarkably) is used to calculate our funding for the financial year 2021/22.

To help us with the meals part of this, HCL are proposing a special menu for next Thursday given below:

Menu

Baked Chicken Burger or Beef Burger
Quorn Pattie Burger (V)

Baked Potato Wedges

Sweetcorn
Coleslaw

Ice Cream Factory

Because burgers would have been on the menu on Tuesday, they will swap the Red meal for Tuesday and Thursday. This means the Red meal on Tuesday will be lasagne. Don't forget it's the Week 2 menus next week.

It would be great if you could help us on this day by booking a school meal.

Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a co-opted governor. Ideally, we are looking for someone who is not a parent at the school (though this isn't a necessity) and who has an education background to help to complement the skills of the current Governing Body.

If you think you might know someone who would fit the bill, has a little spare time to help support the work of the school and its governors and who might like to know more, please ask them to contact Sarah Burge, Chair of Governors via the school office: office@fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk.

Congratulations to...

- Chloe (Class 4) who was awarded "Most Improved Player" at Royston Netball Club

If you have anything you would like celebrating in our Congratulations to section, please email me at head@fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk with the subject, 'Newsletter'.

Reminders and Notes

- Year 3 & 4 will need their bikes at school on Friday 9th October. Please make sure that you have carried out the required safety checks otherwise children may miss out.
- I have no doubt that poorer weather will mean a few more cars at school in the mornings (though it would be great if it didn't). Please can you remember to park respectfully of our neighbours – avoiding driveways or avoiding blocking people in. Thank you.

Catch-Up

At the moment, we are going through the process of carefully assessing children's attainment in order to plan how we intend to use the Catch-Up Fund and the National Tutoring Programme. This is through looking at children's work, the use of some tests (the usual ones that we use in school), individual assessments and other assessment tasks. Over the next few weeks we will be collating this information in order to plan a way forward, taking advantage of all the additional funding we can find.

Where we identify a need, we will contact you to discuss the options and plan together. I am guessing that this will be at the beginning of next half-term as many of the systems don't go live until then.

School Rules

Over the summer we reduced and simplified our school rules to make them easier for everyone to remember. We have three new rules, encompassing the behaviours that we want to see from everyone in our school community. They are:

Be kind

Be respectful

Be a learner

We are having lots of conversations with children about these rules to embed them in their thinking about how they behave and it would be great if you could too. Maybe you'd like to adopt them at home? They'd be even more effective then...

Dates for your diary

Still not much in the diary, I'm afraid!

Friday 9th October Year 3/4 Bikeability

Monday 26th October – Half-Term Holiday

Friday 30th October

Friday 18th December Last Day of Term

Stay safe and well.

With best wishes

Mr Philip Atkin

Headteacher