



Newsletter

2020/21 Issue 3 – Friday 9th October 2020

Thank you

Thank you for your support over the last fortnight. We are really pleased to have Ms Grazebrook back in school and are very grateful to Mrs Maskell for covering Class 3 in her absence. We really don't know what the future will hold but very much hope that these disruptions can be kept to a minimum. Your help with all the social distancing outside of school is really appreciated by everyone.

Remote learning (Update and reminder)

Whilst we are hoping that class closures can be kept to a minimum, we also are aware of the need to plan for any possible periods of home learning.

We have considered two scenarios.

Whole Bubble Isolation or Renewed Whole-School Closure

Where positive cases have been identified in classes the default position in Primary Schools from Public Health has been to send the whole bubble of children home, including the teacher. We are also aware of increasing concern over current infection rates – although fortunately not yet in this part of the country – which may at some point lead to much more stringent lockdown conditions. Reassuringly, it seems that schools will be one of the last services to close, so whilst we are preparing for this possibility, we don't currently think that whole-school closure will happen. Closure of individual bubbles does, however, look likely.

In these cases, we would provide work for children in two phases.

1. Firstly, teachers have prepared a set of age-appropriate work, available in eSchools which can be quickly made visible to children at the point of class or school closure. This will provide work for your child to do at home from day 1, whilst the teacher prepares Phase 2. This work may continue if the teacher is unwell and unable to work during the closure. Because this work has been prepared in advance, it is unlikely to link directly to current work in the class.
2. Secondly, we are assuming that in most cases, the teacher will remain well. In Phase 2, the teacher will provide a more tailored package of support which follows on from the class learning at the point of closure. This might include daily set work, appropriate links to lessons from Oak National Academy or directly taught sessions from the teacher themselves on Microsoft Teams. Precisely what this will look like will depend on the age of the children involved and the topics to be covered. There will be an expectation that all children are 'handing in' work regularly to the teacher.

In all cases, we will be aiming to minimise the disruption to learning for children having to isolate.

Individual Isolation

We also anticipate that there will be periods when you, as a family, will need to isolate and your children will not be able to attend school, even though their peers continue to do so. In these circumstances, teacher will do their best to send parallel work to isolating children at least from day 3 of missing school. This will include the class tasks set and any worksheets that the teacher plans to use. Obviously, at this point the teacher will still have a class to teach and it is important to realise that direct teaching and discussion form a large part of a child's day in school: the work we set will not take a child a whole day to complete, nor will it replicate the day in school. However, we will attempt to keep them on track so that they do not fall behind whilst having to be at home.

If children are unwell, we do not expect them to complete work: they need to get better first.

Access to technology

Thank you to those people who have managed to complete our survey updating information about access to technology. It is important that we have up-to-date information as the DfE have a laptop scheme in place for families where access to online learning is limited by the equipment you have. The information we collect in this survey will help us identify which families meet the eligibility criteria should the need arise. Please could you complete the linked survey below - it should take you less than 2 minutes.

<https://forms.gle/r8UGy6pRsFbHF9vj7>

Governor Vacancy (Reminder)

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...



1. Sofia (Class 3) for her certificate from the International Dance Teachers' Association for completing her dances online during the lockdown. It's great to see people carrying on with interests even when it was difficult to do.
2. Christina & Andreas (Class 3) who have started competing again in the BMX Royston ROCKET winter series. Christina came 6th and Andreas 3rd out of 10 riders. Great job!

If you have anything you would like celebrating in our Congratulations to section, please email me at

Reminders and Notes

1. Unfortunately, I will be out of school next Thursday and Friday (15th & 16th) as I need to refresh my First Aid training. Cover in the office will be even less than usual, but we will be picking up urgent answerphone messages during the day.
2. Half-Term week runs from Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October. School begins again on Monday 2nd November.
3. Individual photographs are on Thursday 5th November. More details below.
1. We are planning a parents' evening this term, but it will need to be done remotely. We are aiming for later in November to give us time to analyse

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all our assessments and give you the most up to date information.

Individual Photographs

Individual photographs will go ahead on Thursday 5th November as we have been discussing how to do this safely with our provider. Your proofs will be provided via email where you will be able to make an order online for any photographs that you want.

Unfortunately, the guidance that we have been sent from the photographer means that sibling groups including any pre-schoolers won't happen this year and we are sorry about that as we know these are popular photos.

Year 3/4 Bikeability

Year 3/4 have been enjoying Bikeability Level 1 sessions today. These take place on the playground and are an introduction to safe cycling. It's a great preparation for the Level 2 course children take in Year 5/6 where they learn about riding on the road.



Dates for your diary

Still not much in the diary, but we expect to have all our Christmas dates next time!

Monday 26th October – Half-Term Holiday
Friday 30th October

Thursday 5th November Individual Photographs

Friday 18th December Last Day of Term

Stay safe and well.

With best wishes

Mr Philip Atkin

Headteacher

