

Newsletter 1

Friday 10th September 2021

In this issue:

Welcome back

Naming items

A cautious approach

Meet the teacher evening

Meet the teacher evening

The Monkfield Art Gallery

Attendance matters

Headteacher roll of honour

Checking medication held in school

Sentence Starters

In school this week

Covid Flowchart

Forthcoming dates

Welcome back

It is always wonderful to welcome the children back to school for the new academic year, but it has felt extra special this year, as we have been able to open the gates and invite you all back onto the playgrounds once more. I am sure you will agree that it has felt very strange having socially distanced conversations at the gates over the past year and I can vouch for all the staff when I say we have missed the daily interactions with our parents and carers.

All the children seem excited to be back in school and having visited all the classrooms I have been so impressed by their positivity. Everyone is determined to make sure they are making the most of the many creative learning opportunities the staff have planned.

We are very fortunate to be able to welcome Mrs Major to Monkfield Park. She will be the Interim Deputy Headteacher and SENCO whilst I am undertaking the role of Acting Headteacher. If you see Mrs Major on the playgrounds please do say hello and introduce yourselves. We also extend a very warm welcome to all our new families who are joining the school. I hope you will help them to feel part of the Monkfield Park family very quickly.

Mrs Howell

Naming items

Please ensure that all items of your child's school uniform are clearly named. It makes re-uniting lost/misplaced items with their owner much easier. Thank you.

A Cautious Approach

We are aware that cases of Covid 19 are continuing to rise in Cambridgeshire and as a result we are still proceeding cautiously in school. We are continuing to use many of the mitigating measures within school e.g. frequent handwashing, sanitising frequently touched areas and ensuring rooms are well ventilated. In addition, we are following advice from the Director for Education to avoid mass gatherings in school. Sadly, this does mean that we must continue to hold large meetings and events online for the foreseeable future.

Meet the Teacher Evening



We do hope you will join us on Monday 13th September for our 'Meet The Teacher Evening'. We had hoped to welcome you into the classrooms for this event but, unfortunately, we have been advised by the Local Authority that we should avoid large gatherings for the time being, to ensure everyone's safety. Therefore, we will be inviting you to join us virtually for this important meeting. You will still have the opportunity to meet your child's new teacher and to learn about the routines and expectations for their class and to ask any questions you may have. In their presentations, the teachers will give you important information about the curriculum, homework arrangements, new classroom routines and forthcoming events which have been planned for the coming year.

You are invited to join this virtual meeting at 17:30. A link with instructions of how to join the meeting via Zoom will be sent on Friday 10th September. The meetings will be recorded and will be available on the school website for parents who were unable to attend in person.

Monkfield Park Art Gallery

Over the last week, school has been a hive of creative activity as the children have been working hard to produce their exhibits for the annual Monkfield Park Art Gallery on the theme of 'Journeys'. We believe that art is such an important factor in children's development and wellbeing as it builds self-confidence, a sense of identity and resilience.

We had hoped that we would be able to hold the art gallery in person this year but we have taken the difficult decision to hold the event online again. You will be able to access all of the children's art work from our School Website. The work will be uploaded in groups and your child's exhibit will be identified by first name only. The art work from your child's class will also be shared with you on Seesaw.

As we normally raise funds for the school from the Art Gallery, we would be very grateful if you would like to make a donation. All money raised will be used to buy new reading books for the library. Please contact the office via email if you would like to have your child's art work and it will be sent home with them.



Attendance Matters

If your child is registered at a school they must by law attend that school regularly and punctually. Your child should only miss school if he/she is ill or unable to attend for some other unavoidable reason, including self-isolation as a consequence of COVID 19.

We know that if your child isn't in school for a very good reason, we cannot teach them all the curriculum asks them to learn and even small gaps in attendance can make a huge difference to children's understanding and development. Consequently, the government now classes persistent absenteeism as 10%, which means that any child with an attendance of less than 90% will be classed as a persistent absentee and will be monitored by the Education Welfare Officer. In these instances the Local Authority may issue a Penalty Notice.

Schools need to ensure that parents are informed of any attendance concerns at an early stage and therefore you will receive an initial communication from us if your child's attendance falls below 96%. The initial letter will be to simply make you aware of your child's attendance level but if concerns persist, then the school may contact you again.

We are not allowed to authorise absences from school during term time other than in exceptional circumstances. Parents who take a child out of school for term time for 6 consecutive sessions (3 days) or more over a 4 week period, which are not authorised by the school under the exceptional circumstances rule, may receive a Penalty Notice. Therefore Penalty Notices will be issued for single event absences of at least 3 consecutive school days or more where these absences are unauthorised because they are deemed to be neither exceptional or unavoidable.

Each term we analyse how each class is doing and how many children have been able to achieve 100% attendance. As always, our expectations for children and families are high and we look forward to a well-attended year following the disruptions to education over the past months. Please adhere to the school holiday dates when planning holidays and family events. Thank you for your co-operation.



Headteacher Roll of Honour

Each week this space will provide a celebration of children who may be especially noticed for demonstrating learning or behaviour that we feel should be recognised and commended. This week I would like to congratulate:

Charlie in Columba Class: Charlie you are to be congratulated. Through your hard work and effort you have really discovered the joy of books and it has been wonderful to hear that you can't stop reading. I also think you look very cool in your new glasses.

Amelia in Pegasus Class: I would like to thank Amelia for being such a wonderful and consistent role model for everyone. She has volunteered to help stack all the chairs in the dining hall each day which has been a great help to all the adults.

Caoilinn in Phoenix Class: Caoilinn has blown me away with her reading this week. Her confidence has increased and it was so pleasing to hear her reading in class with such expression. You are proof that hard work and practise really do pay dividends. Well done.

Checking Medication Held in School

If your child has an asthma inhaler, epi pen, jext-pen or other medication in school please can we ask you to contact the school office to check that their medication is still in date and is stored in a clearly named box or bag. All out of date medication will need to be taken to a pharmacy for safe disposal. Please note that we will not be able to administer out of date medication to your child.



Sentence Starters

Ask your Reception child to tell you what makes school exciting.

Ask your Year 1 child to explain what makes a good friend.

Ask your Year 2 child to describe the journey of a bee.

Ask your Year 3 child to tell you about something new they have learnt in Year 3.

Ask your Year 4 child what happened to the city of Pompeii in 79AD.

Ask your Year 5 child to explain how they remember the order of the planets.

Ask your Year 6 child to describe why we may need to use rounding.

A Few Reminders

Please do not allow your child to bring items to school which are of monetary or sentimental value. The school can not take responsibility for items that become lost or broken. It is also important that parents do not permit children to use any of the outdoor play equipment that is located in the grounds of the school, such as the gym equipment, tractor slide or trim trail. For the safety of the children, only staff supervision enables such activities to take place. Additionally, we would appreciate adults and children dismounting from wheeled vehicles such as scooters and cycles when they enter the school grounds. There are also no ball games permitted before or after school, to ensure the safety of all who access the site at these busy times.

In School This Week

Year 3

Year 3 are carrying out a local study of Cambourne this term and as part of this they have been studying the book 'Voices in the Park' by Anthony Browne in their English lessons. As we are so lucky to have a plethora of parks in Cambourne, they decided to visit a park and listen to the sounds of nature and voices which can be heard in our own environment. Using their five senses the children enjoyed gathering descriptive language to create similes for their free verse poetry.



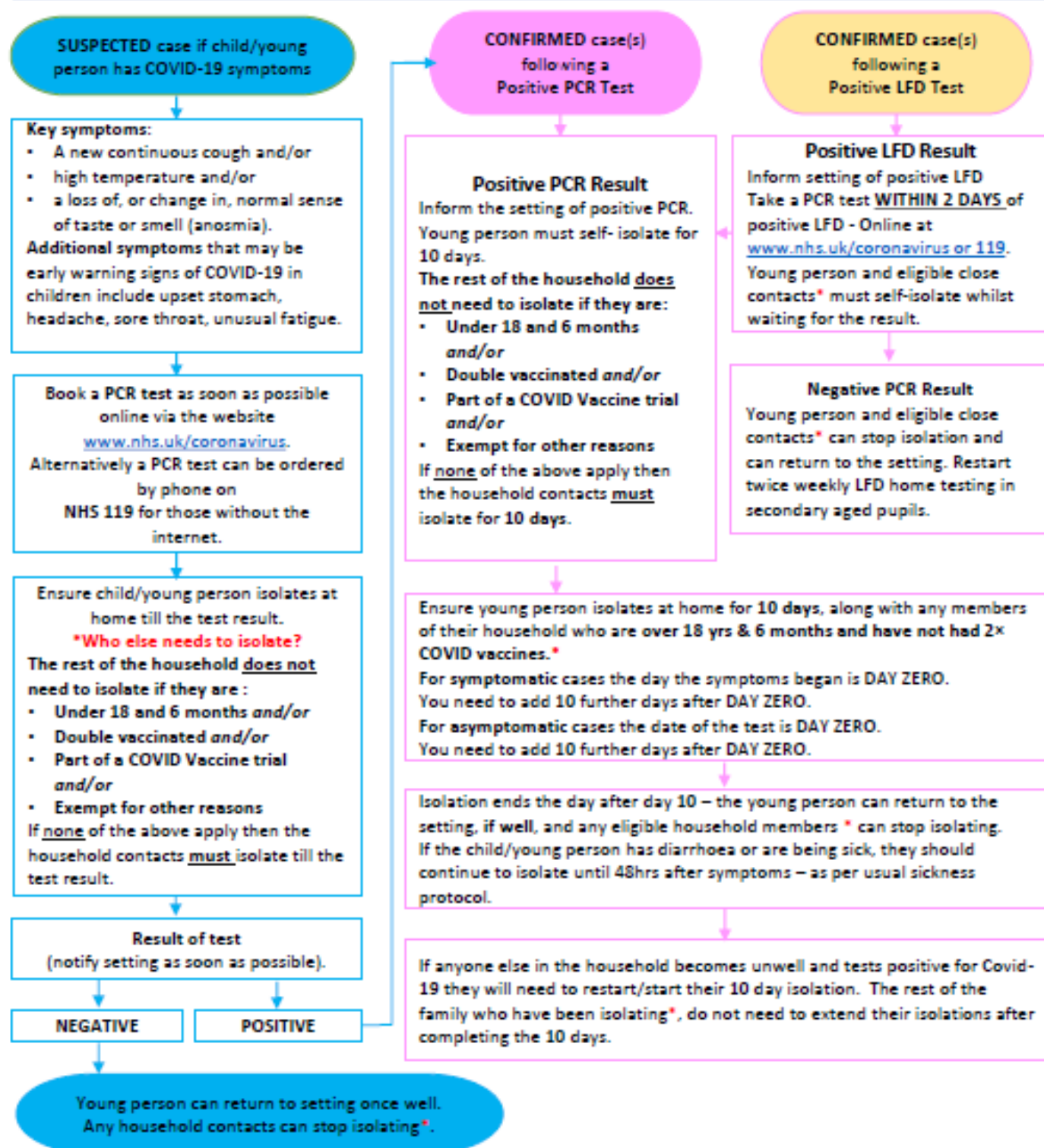
Reception

We have been delighted to welcome our new Reception children to school this week. They have impressed us all with their eagerness to learn, determination and independence. They have all made such a positive start to school and we are certain that their Reception year will be an enjoyable and memorable one. We hope you enjoy seeing some of the activities they have been taking part in.



COVID-19 Guidance for Parents/Carers from 16th August 2021

For any **SUSPECTED** or **CONFIRMED** case of COVID-19 in a child/young person please follow the flow chart below



- We continue to ask families/children to wash hands regularly, keep spaces well ventilated, wear face covering in crowded, public indoor areas.
- Face covering are to be worn on transport to and from educational settings.
- LFD test = Lateral Flow Device tests are rapid tests that can be used at home and the result is available after 30 minutes.
- PCR test = polymerase chain reaction test that can be booked online and is sent to a lab for the result.
- If you have recently (within 90 days) had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 you are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test result, unless you develop new symptoms.
- LFD tests are used for identifying Covid-19 infection where there are no symptoms. If you have symptoms book a PCR test.
- LFD tests are safe to use in pregnancy. They should not be used in children under 12 years (unless in secondary school).
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination you should still take part in the LFD testing as you may still transmit the virus.
- If you have been identified as a close contact* of a positive case, a negative LFD test does not mean you can stop isolating unless part of a workplace scheme.
- If you have had a recent nosebleed, or have a nose piercing use the other nostril to swab for the LFD test.

FORTHCOMING DATES 2021 to 2022

The arrangements for all these events may be subject to change if there are changes in Government and Local Authority guidance over the coming months. Until further notice, most of the large events will take place virtually via Zoom.

13th September—Reception children start full time

13th September 5.30pm —Meet the teacher evening via Zoom.

15th—17th September—School art gallery online

20th September at 6pm—ReadWrite Inc. information evening for Reception parents via Zoom

w/c 20th September—Recycling week

w/c 27th September—Harvest Festival week

w/c 27th September—Year 6 Bikeability

9th October at 9am—Cygnus Class assembly

11th October—Individual school photographs

12th October 5-7.30pm—Parent consultation evening

15th October at 9am— Blue Class Assembly

21st October 4—6. 30 pm—Parent consultation evening

25th—29th October—HALF TERM

1st November—Children return to school

12th November at 9am—Indigo Class assembly

w/c 15th November—Anti bullying week

16th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

18th November at 2pm—Year 2 Production

19th November—Children in Need Day

14th December at 2pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

15th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

16th December at 2pm—Year 1 Nativity Play

16th December at 6pm—Year 4 Carol Concert

17th December—LAST DAY OF TERM

20th December—3rd January 2022—CHRISTMAS BREAK

4th January—INSET Day (school closed for children)

5th January Children return to school