



## King's Oak Primary School

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Visit our website: [www.kingsoakprimary.co.uk](http://www.kingsoakprimary.co.uk)

Friday 7th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year to you all. Welcome back to school and I hope you had a restful break. We are all very excited to be back and have some really exciting topics planned for the children. Information on what the children will be learning will be shared with you in the curriculum newsletters from Team Leaders which will also be sent out today.

Some of the children in KS1 were very lucky this week to be able to read with the school reading rabbits! It has been so great to see the children's enthusiasm for reading going from strength to strength. Thank you all once again for all of your support by hearing your child regularly at home and keeping us informed of their progress.



As you will be aware, there are high levels of Covid19 in the local area and so we are being very vigilant to this in school. National guidelines on this have recently been changed and so the parental flowchart from the Local Authority has been adapted to reflect these. This is attached to the end of this newsletter, with the usual information on symptoms etc. Maintaining education for all children is a priority for us here at King's Oak but we have a range of measures in place to reduce any potential transmission. I thought it might be helpful to outline the current control measures that we are taking in school:

- All staff are LFD (Lateral Flow Device) testing twice a week.
- We are encouraging all staff to have taken up their vaccination, and recommend staff book a booster as soon as possible.
- Staff meetings (whole staff) are remote
- Phonics groups, KS1 and 2 sports and afterschool clubs can still take place as the children are mainly in consistent groups. However we recommend that children are separated within these wherever possible in their year groups
- All staff (unless exempt) are wearing face coverings in shared spaces and corridors. If anyone forgets a mask then these are available around the school. Staff social distance wherever possible, even within year groups.
- Co2 monitors are in place around the school and are signalling when additional ventilation is needed. This is resolved by opening windows and doors as appropriate. A clear balance is in place to maintain adequate ventilation and a reasonable room temperature.
- HEPA filters are in place in classrooms where the Co2 monitors have indicated they should be used. Guidance on the use and placement of filters has been received from the Local Authority and shared with staff
- Household contacts are required to LFD test each day for 7 days, both staff and children over 5
- Frequent hand washing and use of sanitiser is very important and promoted by all staff
- We continue to be very vigilant to symptoms in ourselves and within the pupil community, seeking testing as required.
- Phase assemblies still take place in KS1 and 2 with a clear gap between the year groups, high levels of ventilation monitored by a Co2 monitor and kept to a maximum of 15 minutes.
- Although the majority of meetings are now remote, meetings with parents and other professionals can still take place in person if required. If this is the case, a sensible distance is maintained in a well ventilated room.
- We report all cases to the Local Authority via the required online form. Our outbreak management plan is ready to be utilised if the number of cases reaches the threshold for further measures. We are in frequent contact with local public health representatives.
- We remind parents of symptoms and any changes to local and national measures weekly through the school newsletter and pass on any LA flowcharts as they are reviewed.
- Further details of our approach are available on our school website

### **Parental views:**

Thank you for your views in the recent parental survey. We received 185 responses, the majority of which were overwhelmingly positive. We are always seeking to improve and so will reflect not just on the positives, but on those areas where parents felt we could do better. A summary of the findings are below:

Areas of strength identified (95%+ agree or strongly agree):

- Parents feel children enjoy school
- Parents identify children feel safe and cared for in school
- Parents feel behaviour is good
- Parents feel they are made aware of what children are learning
- Parents feel that school has high expectations for their children
- Parents feel that pupils are making good progress

Areas for further development:

- A minority of parents (12%) feel that incidents of poor behaviour are not dealt with quickly or fairly enough
- A minority of parents (12%) feel that the school could do more to provide for pupil interests and wider personal development

We already have a range of initiatives in place to support these areas and will focus on these in further newsletters and events

### **Flu Vaccinations**

Unfortunately this week there was an issue with delivering the Flu Vaccinations across the school. The nursing team from Vaccination UK were unable to source enough stock and were unable to contact some parents to confirm choices. This resulted in some children in KS1 and most of KS2 not receiving their vaccination as planned. The vaccination team has asked me to pass on their apologies for the confusion.

We have rebooked flu vaccinations for 31st January and we will be sending out updated paperwork for parents to complete in advance next week. If you have any questions once you have received the forms, please contact the school office who will arrange for someone to assist you.

### **Staff Changes:**

We are excited to welcome some new staff to the school from January, Miss Barrow will be joining us as a teacher in the Access to Learning Provision. We will also be welcoming Mr Sheppard who will be joining us for 2 days in Year 5, as Mrs Ryan will be reducing her time in school to 3 days. Mr Sheppard will spend the remainder of his week supporting in other year groups, starting with Y3. I am excited to welcome them both to the school to enhance the provision for the children.

### **Dates for your diary**

Friday 22nd July - this is now a non school day. This is because of the Queen's Jubilee falling in the May half term and us needing to put an additional day in for this.

### **Covid Signs - reminder**

As a reminder to everyone, the main symptoms and signs of Covid 19 remain:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

As well as these, early warning signs include, but are not exclusive to:

- Headache
- Upset stomach and/or stomach ache
- Sickness
- Runny nose (this is a symptom more common with the Delta variant)
- Feeling achy
- Extreme tiredness

If your child, or a member of the household are showing any of these symptoms, it is really important that the person showing symptoms isolates and accesses a PCR test. If this comes back positive, all who have been in contact with the positive person will need to access a PCR test. The new guidance states that close contacts who are not symptomatic do not need to isolate while waiting for their result **but they should now do a Lateral Flow Test for 7 days if they are over 5. Staff will be reminding parents of the importance of this to keep the school community safe, and we are here to support anyone with any questions around this.** See updated parental flowchart below (and also sent to you separately) for more information.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mr Morley-Smith

Headteacher

Mrs McStraw

Deputy Headteacher

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