



Newsletter – 16th January 2022

Dear parents,

Christmas seems like a long time ago now, with just the tip of the sawn up Christmas tree mournfully poking out from under the lid of our garden waste bin to remind us. Hopefully your children are still playing with their new toys (if they make it past two battery changes they are doing well) and have another year of very happy memories.

2022 has got off to a very impressive start; the bluer skies and lighter mornings are extremely welcome, but better still has been the wonderful start the classes have made in their topics this term. There will be more about this later.

This newsletter is a heady mix of car fumes, COVID isolation guidance and lots of good news from what has been going on in school.

New COVID isolation guidelines

These have changed...again.

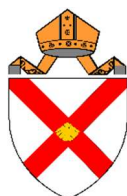
From Monday, children and adults who have tested positive for COVID can now leave isolation on day 6, as long as they take lateral flow tests on the mornings of day 5 and day 6 and they are both negative. The day count begins on the day after the positive test (if there were no symptoms) or the day after the symptoms began (if there were symptoms). This is a little complicated, and has not been made clearer by reports in the news and instructions to me via the DfE seemingly contradicting each other. Therefore, I have tried to explain this through two examples: one asymptomatic and one symptomatic.

Example 1

Eric tests positive on a lateral flow test on Wednesday but has no symptoms. No PCR is needed; he reports the test as usual on the government website and starts to isolate immediately. Day 1 is on Thursday - the day following the test. If Eric takes lateral flow tests on the mornings of Monday (day 5) and Tuesday (day 6) and both are negative, he can end isolation and return to school on Tuesday, as long as he does not have a high temperature. If the tests are positive he needs to keep isolating until he has two negative tests on consecutive days, up to a maximum of 10 days.

Example 2

Ernie loses his sense of taste on Friday and starts to isolate straight away. He goes for a PCR test and the next day (Saturday) gets a positive result. Saturday is day 1 as Ernie's symptoms started on Friday. If Ernie takes lateral flow tests on the mornings of Wednesday (day 5) and Thursday (day 6) and both are negative, he can end isolation and return to school on Thursday (day 6), as long as he does not have a high temperature. If the tests are positive he needs to keep isolating until he has two negative tests on two consecutive days, up to a maximum of 10 days.



If either Eric or Ernie still had a high temperature after day 10, they would need to continue their isolation until it was back to normal.

I hope this has helped and not added to the confusion. To give the stories an element of closure, both Eric and Ernie only had mild symptoms and have now fully recovered.

Idling engines

People are keeping their engines running outside the school while they sit in their cars. Not only is this unpleasant for passing children and adults to breathe in, but it negates all of the good work others are doing by getting to school in a sustainable way.

Most mornings I cycle in via Hillswood Road, past the High Rocks, and every time I do there seems to be at least one car parked along the side of the road, engine running, driver sitting inside and making me wonder why I am bothering.

I realise that some of us are on a different page to others when it comes to being environmentally conscious, but even if climate change is not a concern you share, please be mindful that car fumes are not pleasant for others to inhale.

As always I am extremely grateful to all those who get to school on foot or by bicycle.

Years 1 and 2 - A stunning start to our space topic.

The strangest thing happened last Friday on the infant field. A mysterious crash site appeared over night near the cabin and we were asked to investigate to find out what it was.

Here are some pictures of what we saw:



On further investigation we decided that it must be an alien landing site as there were lots of clues that made us think that. It would seem that it had come out of nowhere, maybe from outer space? Could it be aliens looking for a way home? We will find out more and report back.

Mrs Belfield

Years 3 and 4

Years 3 and 4 have had an exciting start to our topic by watching the film Rotten Romans, a fun film that is full of facts (and a little artistic licence) They particularly enjoyed finding out about how the Romans went to the toilet!





Mrs Jones

(Surely, Mrs Jones, the mechanics haven't changed that much? - JT)

Years 5 and 6

To kick-start our new topic, Crime and Punishment, the Upper Phase became Crime Scene Investigators for the day. To find the culprit they had to analyse fingerprints and footprints, carry out handwriting analysis and use chromatography to work out whose pen had been used to write the note left at the crime scene. We all had lots of fun and the teachers being accused were great sports. Especially the culprit Mrs Jones, who was on the receiving end of some extremely loud booing from 180 children!

Mrs Holland



Nightingale class investigating!

Poppy Appeal

Thank you for your generosity. We raised a very impressive £749.25 for the Poppy Appeal in November.

Vacancy for a TA role

We have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant at the school. The job is advertised on the Kent Teach website, so please take a look if you are interested.

Key Stage 2 Accelerated Reader Challenges – 13.01.22

As our reading challenges continue in Key Stage 2 this term, I am very pleased to inform you of this week's winners.



Highest Individual Word Count	Highest Number of Quizzes Achieved	Highest Class Word Count
George in Vole Class 613,680 words	Divit in Dormouse Class 23 quizzes	Kestrel Class 2,577,444 words

A very big WELL DONE to all the children. Please keep encouraging your children to read and complete their AR quizzes. Every word and quiz counts!

Ms Simpson

Thank you all, as always.

John Tutt
Headteacher

