

## Magical Moments

### Football

A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 football team who competed in their first match as part of the Prestige League. We played Thurlow Primary and finished with an incredible win 6-1 win. What an achievement!



### Year 2 Geography

The Panthers had a great time walking around the village looking for human and physical features as part of their geography. They really are experts in this and did some wonderful writing when they were back in school.



### Enrichment Day

The sun came out for us today for the Sports Enrichment Day. Here are some photos from Key Stage 2. Key Stage 1 and Kittens are so excited about this afternoon!



### **\*IMPORTANT\* New Covid Safety Measures**

As you will have seen in the press, Covid cases are rising nationally and are particularly high in Suffolk. As a result, Suffolk Public Health and Unity Schools Partnership central team have provided new guidance for schools that will be coming in after the half term break. I have attached a letter to parents and carers from Suffolk County Council about the new recommendations.

The changes in school here will be:

- Adults to wear face coverings in communal areas, including parents at drop off and pick up;
- Limiting visitors to schools to essential visitors only;
- Moving whole school assemblies online;
- Zoning the hall when children eat at lunchtime so they sit with children from their class.

At pick up and drop off time, please help us to keep everyone safe by:

- Wearing a face covering (unless you are exempt for medical reasons);
- Spreading yourselves out along the path and Church Walk when waiting for the gate to open in the morning;
- Using the full 5 minutes window for drop off and pick up to reduce congestion;
- Spreading yourselves out outside the classrooms at the end of the day;
- Saying goodbye to children at the gate if they are in Year 2 upwards, rather than take them round to the classroom.





In addition, please do not come into the school office unless absolutely necessary. Contact staff in another way (phone, email or Dojo). If you need to come to the office, please stay outside and let someone come to you.

We are limiting time together as a whole school indoors, but are **not** moving back to being in separate bubbles at this point and I only intend to if we get an outbreak or are advised to do so. It may be that we split the school into two large bubbles of Reception/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 as a halfway house before getting to that point.

Please continue to let me know if your child tests positive over the half term break. This helps me to keep track of the extent of infections in school and we have some families with vulnerable members who really need to know if their child might have been near someone with Covid.

If you are comfortable doing so, I would suggest that it would be a good idea for you do a lateral flow test on your child on the Sunday night before school resumes on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

As before, children can continue to come to school if someone in their household tests positive but it is strongly recommended that they get a PCR test. If we reach the tipping point of an 'outbreak', the recommendation is that children stay home for 3 days if a sibling tests positive. However, I will be sympathetic if a child stays home for a day or two while they wait for a test result.

We will continue to take the usual actions to reduce transmission:

- Asking anyone with symptoms to stay at home
- Washing or sanitising hands regularly
- Maintaining a safe distance from others where possible

At the beginning of term, we were really hoping that we were going to be able to have parents in for Christmas performances and the Christmas service in the church. I know how special this is when your children are little. Whilst this is looking increasingly unlikely, I am holding off making a decision for now and the Key Stage 1 children will start rehearsals after half term, but it may be that the performances end up being recorded or live streamed.

I am incredibly grateful for your continued support and understanding with this. It feels like it has been going on for a very long time now and you have all been very patient and understanding.

### **New Reception Class Teachers**

I have appointed for the Reception teacher post for after Christmas. Two teachers will be taking up the post, working half the week each. They are both great appointments and I am sure parents will be very pleased. As usual, I am sworn to secrecy about who they are until parents at their current schools have been informed. I will let you know as soon as I can and they will spend time in school before the end of term to meet the children and Mrs Jordan and Mrs Bradnam.

### **#HelloYellow**

A massive thank you for your support with our Hello Yellow Day for Young Minds. We raised a whopping £454 in total, thanks in a large part to an anonymous parent who generously doubled the amount raised in school!



## Advice for Parents

This website (Parenting Smart from the charity Place2Be) has been brought to my attention and it is absolutely fantastic! It has sections with advice on all sorts of issues I wish I had seen when my children were young, such as 'My child says "I hate you!"'; 'My child has meltdowns'; 'My child has friendship issues' and 'Helping your child to manage separation anxiety and goodbyes'. The sections are all very short - e.g. two minute reads and five minute videos, but have some great advice.

## Reporting Absences

When your child is going to be absent from school, many parents message the class teacher or me about it. This is absolutely fine, but please also phone to let the office know as we often forget to pass on the message and then the office staff have to follow our procedures and make contact with the parents.

## \*\*WINTER UNIFORM\*\*

A reminder that children need to be back in **full school uniform** after the half term break. This means **shirts and ties** for all children from Year 1 upwards. PE kits can still be worn all day on PE days and children in Kittens can wear polo shirts all year round if preferred.

## Parking Enforcement

The Parish Council have let us know that there is going to be a drive with regards to parking around the school due to complaints from the local residents. You should, therefore, expect to see a higher presence of traffic enforcement officers over the next few weeks.

## Goodbye Pauline

It was emotional at the crossing this afternoon when we said goodbye and thank you to Pauline. I know the children are going to really miss her! Pauline really appreciated your kind words and gifts and I know she is going to miss everyone too.

This might be a good time to remind your children about how to cross roads safely, especially as the evenings will soon be very dark. I plan to do an assembly on this after half term but it would be good for you to have a chat with them too.

## Goodbye Mrs Addison

We say goodbye to Mrs Addison today after more than five years as a Midday Supervisor. Thank you, Mrs Addison for all you have done for the school over the years and in all weathers! We will miss you!



Wednesday 20 October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and School Leaders

**RE: Additional measures to reduce Suffolk's COVID-19 transmission in education settings**

Thank you for working with us to reduce the number of COVID-19 cases in schools and other education settings. We know everyone is doing their best to manage outbreaks and support each other.

Unfortunately, it is necessary to implement additional measures due to the continued rise in Suffolk's case rate, particularly in schools and other education settings.

The number of cases within children and young people aged 10-14 has increased by almost 15% and cases amongst 15-19 year olds has increased by 32% in the past week of data. This means that in October alone school children in Suffolk have lost 26,264 days of education due to positive cases of COVID-19.

With this in mind, we are asking education leaders to implement additional measures in education settings, including primary, secondary, further and higher education. Early years settings are under constant review and it is not necessary to include them at this time.

From November 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, Suffolk County Council Public Health is advising;

- **Staff** in education settings (specialist, primary, secondary, further and higher education) to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- **Students** in all secondary, further and higher education settings to wear face coverings in communal areas outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons.
- Specialist, primary, secondary, further and higher education settings to restrict entry to their site to essential visitors only.
- Any visitors to wear a face covering while on-site, this includes adults collecting children in the playground.

These measures will be reviewed during the week commencing Monday 15 November 2021.

On October 6, we introduced a new sibling policy, which advised children and young people aged between 4 and 18 years to stay at home when a sibling they live with tests positive for COVID-19. This applies to schools with an outbreak of COVID-19 and is still in place.

We should all continue to take simple actions to reduce transmission;

- Staying at home when feeling unwell
- Washing hands regularly with soap
- Wearing face coverings when needed, including on public transport and in crowded indoor settings
- Maintaining a safe distance from others
- Meeting outside

Thank you for your continued support in helping to keep the people of Suffolk safe and well.

Yours Sincerely



Stuart Keeble  
Director of Public Health



Allan Cadzow  
Director for Children and Young People's Services