

...in the news!

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*This newsletter will keep you updated with events at Wheatfields Primary and it is intended to add to the information you receive on a regular basis from your child's class teacher in the weekly 'Learning Review' and termly curriculum letters.*

### **Headteacher thoughts – this term**

The term started for the school team on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in preparation for the return of pupils on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. Boris' announcement that schools would be closing to all but critical workers and vulnerable children on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> Jan meant that school closed on the 5<sup>th</sup> in order to re-open to critical workers and vulnerable children on the 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition, all of our plans were put in place for home learning and using google classroom for those pupils learning remotely. As I reflect on this, the way that the Wheatfields Community responded to this challenge was phenomenal. Parents offered incredible support to the school and in the end we had 87 out of 350 pupils attending school at some point lockdown. Thank you for your help in keeping our numbers in school as low as possible. Parents have also been very quick to communicate when their child is symptomatic and they are booking a test. Our track record in positive Covid tests amongst pupils and families remains low and there has been no positive cases this term in the staffing team. School staff have also got used to twice weekly LFD testing. I don't think the testing will ever get any easier!

97% of pupils engaged in remote learning. Those that weren't engaging were followed up by doorstep visits, phone calls and emails. Thank you parents for supporting your children so well during this period. It was important to recognise that every family circumstance is different and the school was able to respond well to any concerns that were raised with us.

The Wheatfields children have returned to school with enthusiasm and such a positive attitude to learning. On 8<sup>th</sup> March we had 100% attendance which doesn't happen very often! These 3 weeks have been spent settling back in, assessing the children to see where they are in their learning and to determine the focus of teaching for the summer term. There will be gaps in learning for every child across the country. Our job is to identify those gaps for Wheatfields pupils and focus on the teaching and learning that will give them the best possible transition into the next academic year in September 2021. It is also important to not just focus on maths and English and include the wider curriculum; something that Wheatfields does really well. Teaching teams have got together with colleagues in the year above and below to support this process. Our parent consultations this week have been our opportunity to share some of our findings with you. The Parent & Carer survey also gives us good information to support our work next term and beyond.

### **Red Nose Day 2021**

Dressing in red and/or having whacky hair raised a phenomenal £312.89. Thank you so much for your support.

### **Staffing**

Mrs Joan Tucker is retiring at the end of this term after working at Wheatfields for 22 years! So many children will have benefitted from her teaching, her care, her love of the library and ukulele playing! We wish Mrs Tucker a very enjoyable retirement.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Zoe Price is joining the Wheatfields Nursery staff. She brings a wealth of experience and she is looking forward to being part of such a good team.



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### **Parking**

The Police have asked parents and carers to contact them using 101 if you notice any unsafe parking on the roads near the school, thank you.

### **EYFS**

If you have any Orchard games that are in good condition our Early Years Foundation Stage would love to have them. Thank you!

### **Wonde vouchers during the Easter break**

The DfE is running the school voucher scheme over the Easter break for our FSM pupils. Eligible families will receive their vouchers by email. If your circumstances have changed and you think that you may be eligible for free school meals and pupils premium funding, please contact the school office or look on our website to see how to apply.

### **DfE Advice on Discretionary Payment for Isolation**

On Monday, the DfE advised that parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities. Arrangements for support to families can be found here -

[Coronavirus \(Covid-19\) support to self-isolate - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

### **Clubs**

Apart from Multisports there are a few spaces left in other clubs starting after Easter. Once the club is running, we cannot add pupils to the bubble.

### **PAWS Easter Fundraising**

The Easter Craft Bags have landed in school and will be going home with your child on Friday. Thank you to all the parents who ordered a bag and supported this fundraising effort. As you know, all monies raised will come back to the school as something extra nice for the children.

### **Class Photographs**

Look smart - socially distanced class photos will take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April ☺

### **Covid email address**

In order to respond as soon as possible to any illness or absence from school due to covid symptoms we have set up a [covid@wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:covid@wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk) email address. Please use this email address to notify us of any covid related absence and when you receive your negative test result and are able to email us the result.

Should you or a member of your family receive a positive test result phone the school immediately. If it is the evening or weekend send an email using [covid@wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:covid@wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk)

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If there is a positive test result at the weekend or during evenings we need to know as soon as possible to be able to make the necessary arrangements in school and communicate with parents whose children are required to self-isolate.

**Please see the separate letter sent out regarding track and trace at the beginning of the Easter holidays.**

Useful information regarding Covid and self-isolation can be found on our website

[https://wheatfields.eschools.co.uk/website/links\\_to\\_government\\_nhs\\_and\\_mental\\_health\\_information/504021](https://wheatfields.eschools.co.uk/website/links_to_government_nhs_and_mental_health_information/504021)

We are heading into a well-earned break over Easter. I hope you all get a chance to have some family time. There is a professional day on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and we look forward to seeing you again on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**.

Best wishes  
Mrs Thornton

*We aim to give you as much notice as possible for school events. All dates can be found using the calendar on our school website [www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.wheatfields.cambs.sch.uk). You will also receive our Calendar of Events detailing events through the school year.*