



# Newsletter Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

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## Information for Parents – NEW COVID GUIDELINES FOR ALL SCHOOLS



### Testing

The Government strongly encourage all those involved in education and childcare settings to continue regular testing (LFT not PCR) and reporting their results, and to encourage pupils and students in year 7 (aged 12+) and above to test and report their results.

We have also been told to ask Parents, Guardians and other visitors to take a lateral flow test (LFT) before entering our school.

### Isolation

All individuals who have been identified as a close contact of a suspected or confirmed case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, irrespective of vaccination status and age, will continue to be required to self-isolate and asked to book a PCR test.

### Cases within a class

Where there is a suspected case of COVID in a class, we will inform you of this. Where there is a positive case of COVID we will be treating the class as a 'household' and will temporarily close the class and ask everyone, staff and pupils, to get a PCR test and let us know the result. If we have safe staffing levels we will reopen. Where pupils are not able to take a PCR we will ask that you self-isolate for 10 days. We need to take these actions to stop the spread around our school and protect any vulnerable pupils and staff.

When getting a PCR test, we recommend you go to a test centre as the results come back quicker than if you post them.

Boxes of test kits will be sent home to all Secondary aged pupils today. If any Primary aged pupils would like to request a box to be sent home, please let the office know.

When we return in January, where we already have consent from parents, we will be lateral flow testing pupils first thing on Wednesday morning. Parents will be informed of results by text. If there are any positive cases, we will contact parents to pick up your child straight away.

I know this is so inconvenient and challenging and I thank you all for your unwavering support. WFS will play their little part in the prevention of the transmission of COVID.

Thank you so much for all the positive comments regarding keeping the school open following the fire at Hoo Farm. We do, wherever possible, try and keep open and take the information given to us from Worcestershire Children First to inform our decisions. We would, obviously, always put safety first but due to the fire being some distance away we could ventilate due to Covid whilst using the CO2 monitors to help us. Given the disruption to schooling and the impact this has on your own jobs we will only close in exceptional circumstances eg: unsafe staffing due to COVID. We will also always contact you via text if we are closing - **please keep your mobile contact numbers up to date.**

It's been a tough term; COVID, fire(s), floods - let's hope that's it now and we can enjoy the last few days at school and have a healthy and happy Christmas! Again, having the support and backing of our families is never taken for granted - we really do appreciate it, and to use a rugby expression, you are my '16th man'.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to two members of staff this week. We say goodbye to Cilla M. Cilla has worked at WFS and previous to this Blakebrook, for many, many years. Her commitment to the children and families has been unwavering and she will be sadly missed. We also say goodbye to Gemma J who starts her maternity leave, but will soon have 3 small children at home and has decided to take a career break whilst she focusses her time on them. Although we understand this totally, we will indeed miss her but I'm sure she won't have time to miss us!!

We also welcome Charlotte Y to the staff team and hope she settles and enjoys being part of the WFS family.

Over Christmas staff will be testing twice weekly and will test before returning to school on Wednesday 5th January 2022. We would welcome those pupils who can test to do the same, and test before returning to school.. Testing is really helping us stay as COVID free as possible and alongside vaccination, ventilation, hand and respiratory hygiene and the wearing of mask in communal areas, we are certainly seeing a decrease in numbers. Fingers crossed that it remains that way.

## Raising money for Wyre Forest School

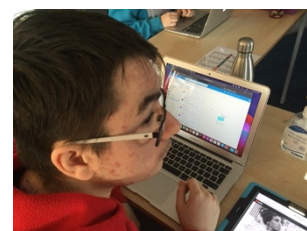
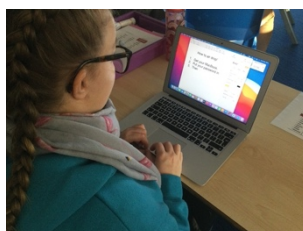
A cousin of 2 of our pupils, is doing a fundraising bungee jump next year to raise money for Wyre Forest School. Please click on the link for more information and if you would like to support Connie.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/connies-fundraiser-for-wyre-forest-school?utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_source=customer](https://www.gofundme.com/f/connies-fundraiser-for-wyre-forest-school?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_source=customer)



## Sixth Form News

Class 12S students have been using MacBooks to write instructions on how to 'airdrop'. As part of their vocational studies, they have also been learning about how to apply for jobs online.



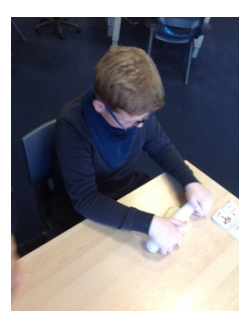
## OAK Class

OAK Class enjoyed learning and performing the songs for our nursery rhyme nativity. We hope that our parents enjoyed our first virtual nativity performance. We have also been getting ready for Christmas by decorating our class Christmas tree and making some things to bring home to the people we love. Tis the season to be jolly!



## ASH Class

ASH Class have enjoyed making mince pies this week in cooking, they have also had fun making Christmas decorations out of salt dough. They have also had some Christmas fun in Forest School!



## SYCAMORE Class



In SYCAMORE Class we have been making festive biscuit reindeers. We had to follow instructions to carry out the activity. We were all very excited to eat them. During our outdoor learning lesson, we drank hot chocolate and listened to the Christmas story. We then talked about what Christmas means to us and what we look forward to over the Christmas holidays.





## BEECH Class

This week BEECH Class have been developing their play skills, they have been working hard using their pecs and ALD's, they had fun jumping in puddles, they have been developing their understanding of actions through rhymes and intensive interactions. They also enjoyed class music time.



## HOLLY Class



HOLLY Class really enjoyed having Christmas dinner together, they pulled crackers and giggled the whole way through dinner. The children all worked together to decorate the table with Christmas table cloths, decorated Christmas place mats and sparkling decorations to finish off. They all put knives, forks and spoons ready. Social, independent and communication skills were all used today to create a lovely festive dinner time.



## ROWAN Class

ROWAN Class have been happy to get back to school! We have been working hard on our animations and look forward to sharing them with families that can join our zoom celebration on Monday. It was lovely to be back in time for our Christmas Dinner too!

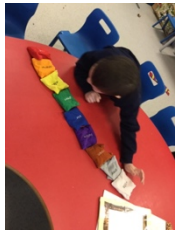


## PINE Class

PINE Class were wonderful in the Early Years nativity this week and did very well with their chosen nursery rhyme, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. We hope all of our families enjoyed watching it and seeing the stars and angels in Pine class!

This week, our theme has been colours and we enjoyed the story, I Can Eat A Rainbow. We made Rainbow Pizzas in our cooking session and Loki loved sprinkling the mozzarella cheese and putting peas onto his pizza. AJ used beanbags to identify the colours of the rainbow, naming each of the colours correctly and Finley enjoyed finding the colours of the pages in the story and matching them to foods of that colour and the pretty scarves. Great work as always Pine Class.

Savannah can be seen here making a beautiful snowman picture to decorate the classroom and Hari did really well in our weekly music session, using the tambourine and engaging with the different instruments to join in with the Christmas songs.



## Russell House News

Great fun was had by all this week on our Christmas outing to Hollywood Bowl, even Chuckles the elf came along and joined in the fun!



## Russell House Student of the week....

Chloe received student of the week this week for having a positive week.



## Achievements!



We are so proud of Sammy in Class 10P! She has passed her Taekwondo grading and has progressed on to a Green belt from a Green stripe. She had to learn patterns, practise self-defence moves and sparring moves. Well done Sammy!

## Justine – Teacher of ELM Class

As many of you are aware, in July I swam the channel in a team called 'Cinq au swim' and used the opportunity to raise some much-needed funds for WFS which many of you supported me with. Earlier this week we were notified by the 'Channel Swim Association' that our team have won the trophy for the 'Greatest Feat of Endurance' for the 2021 season. We were selected due to the changing conditions we had to deal with and the chronic seasickness that two of us suffered but as channel rules state if you don't swim in the rotation you started, the team will be disqualified so we had to push through. Not an easy thing for any team but we were all strangers until two months before and had only met our youngest team member as we boarded the boat! We will be awarded the trophy at a special CSA dinner which celebrates the achievements of all the seasons channel swimmers and the trophy will be on display in Dover Museum. We are all really proud as it really was a feat of endurance!



**Thursday 16th December 2021**  
**Friday 17th December 2021**

**Last day of term.**  
**Inset Day – No pupils in school**

**Wednesday 5th January 2022**

**First Day Back!**

Don't forget our newsletters can always be viewed on the MarvellousMe app! Most parents have now joined up and are loving the great news about their child's day. Don't miss out! If you need any help getting started, contact the office and we can re-send your child's joining letter and code to you.

To keep our Wyre Forest family safe, staff continue to test twice a week. Please continue to test your child(ren) at home. When you run out of test kits please let us know and we will send more home. If you are struggling to test at home please let us know.