



INSPIRING SUCCESS BEYOND EXPECTATION

Head teacher: Mrs Jane Scardifield

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's Friday again and time for my weekly updates. We've been blessed with some wonderful weather this week and it's felt like Summer outside at playtimes and lunchtimes which has been lovely for the children. They've been busy too inside – routines are becoming established and there's been some superb learning across school. I've started to do virtual assemblies this week and on Fridays, we take a look together at learning through school. This week's focus was Art and I gathered examples from most year groups – what a great start to their creative learning your children have made! From printing in years 2 and 4 to some excellent observational drawings in year 5 and 6 – we really hope that making sure we are offering a full range of exciting lessons is helping your children reconnect with school life and I hope that they are thoroughly enjoying their learning!

Coughs, Colds and Covid testing!

We've had quite a few children with cold-type symptoms this week. Where these symptoms have included a **new cough**, we have followed national and local guidance and asked that the children (and their household) isolate at home and book a Covid test for the symptomatic child. I've had several conversations with Public Health this week seeking clarification on when a cough should be treated as a potential symptom of Covid-19. The symptom is described as a '**new, continuous cough**'. However, the word 'continuous' is misleading. Public Health have clarified that this means 'coughing a lot for more than an hour' or '3 or more coughing episodes within 24 hours'.

Testing availability in our area is variable at the moment. Most families have been able to book a test locally online at <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and the results have been returned swiftly meaning that the children have been back in school within 48 hours when symptoms have ceased.

You can inform school of a negative test result by forwarding the negative test email or a screen shot of the negative test result text to admin@northowram.calderdale.sch.uk or by phoning the school office. **Please contact the school office immediately if your child receives a positive test result by ringing the school office on 01422 202704 or by ringing 07494691167 (Mrs Jennings work phone) if it is outside of normal school.**

Face coverings

Thank you very much to you all for wearing a face covering at pick up and drop off times and helping us to protect the health of all families and staff at these busy times. We all seem to have got into this habit and are finding it easier to remember! Inside school, our staff wear face coverings in corridors and remove these on entering the classroom.

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Pick up and drop off

We are having large queues forming before the first pick up and drop off time (8.40am and 3pm). The school gate will not be opened until just before 8.40am and 3pm so for your safety, please try to avoid arriving early. We ask that children are supervised by an adult at all times during pick up and drop off. Please make sure your children stay with you in the waiting line and do not allow them to play on the playgrounds or grassed areas before school. School becomes much quieter after 9.00am and after 3.20pm so I would strongly encourage classes with latest drop off and pick up times (3 Oak, 2 Beech and 1 Hawthorn) to make use of their later staggered start and end times.

School dinners

I know that our children (and parents too!) are keen for news on when hot meals will be available again. Using the dining hall and serving hot meals provides a number of challenges for us from a safety point of view. However, we have been planning this week about how to move forward with this and we'll be doing this over time this year. The good news is that we are aiming to be providing hot meals in the dining hall for Nursery and Reception children starting just before half term and then aiming to extend this so that we can provide hot meals safely for all children in years 1 and 2 by Christmas. I know that children miss Mrs Sutcliffe's cooking (her pizza and curries in particular!) and we are hoping that whilst children are still having to eat lunch in the classroom, to introduce Takeaway Treat Friday after half term for all children where a carefully planned hot meal will be delivered to classrooms instead of sandwiches – something to look forward to! The office will send out more information about this nearer the time.

Home-learning

We know that realistically, we may have to face bubble or year group closures at some point in the future. We are currently working on our home-learning offer so that children who are at home for any Covid-related reason will be able to continue learning at home. We'll send you our 'home learning offer' with full details of this soon.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend – some more fine, autumnal weather is ahead I believe!

Jane Scardifield