



Tividale Community Primary School

Newsletter September 2020

Welcome Back...

I have been desperate to say this for months but welcome back to everyone who has returned to school this month. We REALLY missed you during lockdown so it has been lovely to see your smiling faces again. Of course, we also extend a special welcome to our new staff, new pupils and their parents/carers who have joined us this year. We hope you will be very happy as part of the Tividale School Community.

We have had a great start back to school and we are grateful for the support and commitment you have shown in enabling children to return. We know that, after the length of time they have been absent, every minute really is going to make a difference for our children this year.

We are looking forward to us all working together and having another successful year at Tividale.

COVID-19 Update

Thank you for your support and patience this month as we adjust to new routines and arrangements.

However, we need to be clear with everyone that there will not be 'normal' routines for a while and there are no easy answers. Any decisions we take at the moment, are to comply with Government, Public Health and Local Authority guidance. Unfortunately, this may mean an inconvenience for parents. Please be assured that we are trying to minimise any disruption where we can. However, as always, we continue to rely on your support and cooperation. This includes maintaining social distancing and following our procedures carefully and sensibly.

Attendance in school so far this term has been good, and far higher than the national average. Thank you to all the parents who ensure they call us on the first day of their child's absence and for informing us about reasons for absence. This is vital to us to ensure we are maintaining correct records and so that we can monitor any COVID related absences.

Management of Illness

Over the past week, we have spoken with several families regarding illnesses and management of symptoms. As always, children are allowed to come to school with minor illnesses such as colds etc provided they feel well enough in themselves and do not have a high temperature.

We understand the difficulty in distinguishing these symptoms from Covid, however, so we recognise the anxiety that can create. We will be putting a flow-chart out on the APP which shows when a COVID test is necessary. We know that children will get coughs but we would remind everyone that NHS guidance states that a 'new, continuous' cough is coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you are ever unsure call the office and we can guide you or you can check online at www.NHS.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. If children show only **ONE** of the three main symptoms of a new, continuous cough, a high temperature or a change in sense of taste or smell, they will be asked to stay off school with their siblings and take a test.

Finally, please remember that isolation is important to stop the spread of the virus, but there are occasions where this is not necessary. For example, if somebody in a household has been in close contact with a positive case, the whole family does not necessarily need to isolate. Our office will guide any families through this if you ever need advice or support.

Contingency Planning for Closure

Despite our best efforts, we have to plan for a time when things escalate. The Government has issued guidance which has informed our contingency planning. In the meantime, we request that parents/carers wear face masks (unless exempt) on site and if attending any meetings in school.

As part of our contingency plans, we have considered how we can support 'remote education' for children if they cannot attend for reason related to COVID. This could include times if we had to close a year group 'bubble'. Some information regarding this has been emailed out to you, but we will be updating you on what to expect for 'remote learning' very soon.

Parent's Evenings

Parents' Evenings this term will look/feel and be organised a little differently to usual due to COVID arrangements. Please keep an eye out for important information in your email inbox over the next few weeks.

Hand Sanitiser

Within school, our children have access to sanitising stations as well as soap and hot water in toilets. However, if your child wishes to bring a small personal bottle of hand sanitiser then we are allowing this as long as it fits in a pocket and is not shared. This is not required but may be particularly helpful for our older children (Y3 & above).



Secondary School Applications

A reminder to Y6 parents that the deadline for secondary school applications is Saturday 31st October 2020. All applications now have to be made online.

You will be notified via email on Monday 1 March 2021 of your school place offer, if you have applied using a paper form a letter will be posted to you. http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200303/school_admissions/349apply_for_a_school_place

Uniforms

Many thanks to all parents who ensure daily that their child attends school dressed appropriately in uniform. Everyone looks very smart across the whole school. It is very important in creating a sense of belonging and community in our school, and children are very proud of looking smart.

It has been especially wonderful to see the children in their coloured PE/House t-shirts. Children are very proud of these and wearing them to represent their houses. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our school by providing the correct Tividale uniform for your child.

Mobile Phones in school

Some of our Year 5&6 children who walk home without an adult are allowed to bring mobile phones into school, for safety reasons in getting to and home from school only. Please be aware that the children who do this can no longer hand in their phones to the school office each morning, so that they can be put into the safe for the day. This is due to the 'Bubbles' they are working in. Instead, children MUST hand them into their teachers who then keep them in a locked cupboard for the day. We cannot take any responsibility for mobile phones that are lost or damaged as a result of not being handed in. Please can you talk to your children about this to ensure they understand the expectations, and that they quickly get into the routine of handing in phones for safe keeping.

Healthy Lunch Boxes and snacks - Please no sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks!

It is very pleasing to see the majority of children with packed lunches having wholemeal bread, fruit, salad and fruit juice or water in their lunch boxes. To further develop our standing as a "healthy school" and to continue to encourage children to have a healthy diet and lifestyle, please remember sweets, chocolate bars and fizzy drinks are not allowed in school at any time during the school day. These should be seen as treats at the end of the school day.

At morning break time, children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 are given a free piece of fruit. Key Stage 2 children may bring in their own healthy snack such as a piece of fruit or a cereal bar. Children, up to the age of 5, are also given a drink of milk.. Children may also bring a named water bottle into class to drink during the day. Please note, children are not able to access their lunch boxes until lunch time, so any snack or water bottles for use at break times must be sent in separately. For further details, please contact a member of our office staff who will help you.

Important Dates

October	16 th	Harvest Festival Celebrations in School	November	2nd	School opens
	W/B 19th	Parents Evenings (More details to follow)		13 th	Non-Uniform day for Children in Need
	23rd	School closes for half term			

December 18th School Closes or Christmas (Opens 5th Jan for Pupils)

Signed:

E Burnell

Head teacher
22nd September 2020

