2022 and almost the end of January.

It feels like many, many weeks since we started 2022. That’s not a moan, it is simply that the children have settled so well back in to school and there is a purposeful learning focus in each class.

Living, loving and learning with God continues to be very much our way of being.

**Living alongside Covid**

I spoke to a colleague head teacher last week who described her work as ‘juggling jelly’. I do understand what she means as there is a general daily mix up as a result of Covid and Covid changes. However, I’d say we are on much more solid ground than that. Covid absence both for pupils and staff is relatively low. We keep expecting a sudden spike but so far there hasn’t been one.

We continue to monitor ventilation levels, with CO2 monitors in each class base and to use hand washing and general cleaning to support schooling that has almost returned to normal. We are still limiting the amount of cross school activity and have not yet had any whole school events but we look forward to their return.

Class learning is much more group focussed once again.

**Staffing Updates**

We continue to have low level staff absences related to Covid but have been able to resolve these absences from within our own staff.

You will be aware that we have a new administrator Miss Moseley who started with us in November. She is working well to learn the class names, pupil names and to match these to parents. Miss Moseley is an experienced administrator who is quickly becoming up to speed with all of our school administration portals.

We do have an administration vacancy at the moment which is being fulfilled by Miss Braddock, who has been working in school as an MTA so is familiar with all of the staff and pupils but in addition has stepped in to cover administrative tasks over the last year.

As we transition from the secure provision offered by Mrs Newcombe to a permanent and fully staffed administration team we are working to provide the most efficient and effective service possible. If you have any queries never hesitate to share these and we will work to resolve them.

**Administering Medication in School**

Our working guidance for giving medication in school is as follows:

**Medicines should only be given in school when it is necessary and essential to a child's health or school attendance. Medicines should not be given on an ongoing basis, unless prescribed by a doctor.**

At all times we want to support the wellbeing of pupils and specially to support attendance in school.

Where a child has long term medical needs then their support may include administering medicine over a longer period.

If your child does need medication over the short term, then we ask that you complete a form identifying what the medication is and when it should be administered.

**School Attendance**

Our whole school attendance is currently 93.2%

The national target is to be above 95% and where possible to be above 98%.

If your child has to be absent from school, please notify school on the first day of absence before 9.30 am so that school are not required to contact you. This can be done by phoning or emailing.

If your child is absent for further days, it is helpful if you can continue to inform us of the absence.

We appreciate that children need to be off school if they are unwell. Covid isolating has impacted on the need to be away from school but we work to support this with on line and physical resources where children are well.

We also appreciate that there are exceptional times when a child needs to be away from school. Devon defines exceptional when a family needs to attend a close family wedding or funeral.

Half termly we run an attendance monitor for all pupils. Now that we are returning to more typical and pre Covid conditions then following the next attendance review in February we will go back to issuing first absence letters to any parent where their child has attendance below 95%. This is to ensure that we have the opportunity to support any issues that may be a barrier to school attendance.

The first letter is to inform you of your child’s attendance to date and to offer support if that would assist in overcoming any challenges.

Under Devon guidance all holiday in term time is unauthorised. 10 absences in a row due to holiday (5 days) is picked up by the Devon education welfare team and will likely result in a fine which is Government legislation.

If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of school attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Mannix via the school email system.

**Every aspect of school Life**

We see your child and all aspects of school life from our viewpoint. We know we have created a very positive school culture and that care for each pupil and a high learning expectation are visible in school.

We review school life by talking to each other and to pupils as well as through external monitoring visits. Your voice is important to us. When we ask parents directly either face to face or via questionnaires you seem confident that we are working to do our best.

If at any times you do have any concerns always feel able to speak either to a class teacher or to Mrs Mannix. If we do not know of concerns, then we cannot begin to resolve them. At the same time, we are very open to hearing what we do well. This is always welcomed.

**PTFA**

We are now very keen to have a PTFA team back on track planning events for our community both to raise money and to begin to look forward to events that we can enjoy together. The Easter Bingo and the Easter Raffle are not too far in the distance. These tried and tested events would be a great opportunity for a new team to put together. If you could give any time to this very important aspect of school life, please let us know.

**School Uniform**

Children continue to come in to school in their PE uniform on the days when they have PE. To support our school values then we appreciate parents sending their child in to school in the school PE Kit.

On non PE days, we especially ask that children have the correct footwear.

Every day whenever we can, children are outside for lunch and break plays so that they have access to fresh air and outside activities. Please ensure that your child has a coat in school.

**PLEASE MARK ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME**

**Waffle House Uniform**

A reminder that good quality items of school uniform can be bought for £1.00 at The Waffle House. If you have any items to donate, then they can be dropped off at school or directly to The Waffle House. All proceeds go to The Waffle House to support their community work.

**Dates for the diary**

Letters about the details of these events will be sent closer to the time but we thought we would let you know.

World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March

Non uniform dress up for world book day on - 4th March

we will have a story teller in school to work with each class - Monday 7th March

Owl last swim - 11th March

Woodpecker first swim - 18th March

Year 6 waffle house talk project-

26TH March, 30TH June, 14TH July

Half term breaks - 25th February

Return to school - 1st March

Ash Wednesday - 2nd March

Comic relief non uniform day - 18th March 2022

All year 5 and 6 London trip to parliament - 23rd March

Bikeabality year 5 week beginning - 7th March

Parents consultation meeting dates to be confirmed

Robins swimming from Monday - 8th May

Last day of term Friday - 8th April

Return to school Monday - 25th April