



Shinfield Infant & Nursery School

Autumn Term Newsletter 2

Monday 14th September 2020

admin@shinfield.wokingham.sch.uk

School office telephone: 0118 988 3389

www.shinfieldschools.co.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have decided to send the newsletter out on Mondays as there is often Government guidance issued on Friday and we have weekly updates from Wokingham Borough Council on a Friday. Hence the school COVID-19 risk assessment is very often updated over the weekend as well as being adjusted as each week in school goes through. I would like to draw your attention to the following:

Coming in to school: Year 1 and 2 children and siblings as far as possible are to come in to school by themselves. The exceptions to this would be Nursery or F2 children, children with special educational needs as identified by the school, children with medical needs that require close supervision and children with high anxiety. In the latter case we will work with parents to reduce the anxiety as far as possible whilst keeping everyone safe. Class staff will help to bring any anxious children in to school with your support. Please do not send children in or come in to the playground until 5 minutes before the allotted start time for your child's year group.

Gates: Please could we ask that whilst the gates are being opened parents allow staff time to return to the school building before passing them.

Messages for teachers: If you have an urgent message for a class teacher please email the school office on the address above marked for the attention of the class teacher and this will be passed on to them the same day. Please avoid talking to the teacher at length in the morning as this holds up the rest of the class, thus delaying the start of the day for everyone. The teacher will call or email you if you leave a message for them.

Messages for Mrs Turner: I will email you back if you email me, but this may take time as I have commitments such as assemblies and meetings. I will try and reply on the same day where possible. If you have concerns about possible COVID-19 symptoms or your child's absence it might be quicker and safer to contact the school office who will deal with any queries and keep me informed.

Absence reporting: Please report your child's absence on the designated absence line when you phone the school on the number above. The messages are checked in the morning and absences are recorded. If we do not hear from you about your child's absence we will call you at some point in the morning to check where your child is and if he or she is safe.

Face coverings for parents at all times on the school site: I am concerned that although we are not legally required to ask parents to wear face masks or face coverings when coming on to the school playground, it is still difficult to manage the social distancing in some areas. I would like to ask that all parents who come on to the school site wear masks or face coverings as far as possible, when waiting on the playground to drop off or collect children. Face masks or face coverings **MUST** be worn when coming in to the office lobby. You may be asked to wait outside if you do not have a face covering.

Forgotten items: If your child forgets something such as a water bottle, shoes, bookbag or lunch, please do not bring this in after school has opened, as office staff are unable to handle a lot of items from different school families. We will always provide alternatives or replacements for the day or your child will take part in activities as far as possible.

Lost items: Please ensure that every removable item (eg: coats, hats, school jumpers and cardigans) is clearly and indelibly labelled with your child's name then we can return lost items. Unnamed items will be left in the boxes in the school lobby.

No birthday sweets or cakes to be brought in: As suggested in last week's newsletter, why not buy a book for your child's class to be shared and then put in the class book corner?

Hot school dinners: We are looking to introduce these as soon as possible and will start with a phasing in of eating the school packed lunches in the Hall in classes/year groups to familiarise the children with that routine first.

More information about what to do if your child has COVID-19 or similar symptoms is overleaf.

Mrs Amanda Turner,

Headteacher

head@shinfield.wokingham.sch.uk

What to do if your child is ill or shows any symptoms of COVID-19

We have had a great many calls from worried parents about their children's symptoms and whether this could be COVID-19. Please be assured that we sympathise with you and understand your concerns. The article below may be of help to you:

From British Medical Journal at the weekend:

Preliminary results from Public Health England's COVID-19 Surveillance in School KIDs (SKIDs) study found that, of 12,026 adults and children tested in 131 English primary and preschools in June and early July, just one child and two adults tested positive – 0.02% of those who were swabbed. The results also showed no evidence of onward transmission to household contacts or in schools. Antibody rates in staff and pupils varied by region but reflected levels in the general population.

It is worth remembering that this is the first time many of the children have been back together in school and so colds, tummy upsets and head lice (!) are very common, especially as children's immune systems may not have been exposed to larger groups of people for a few months. You have all taken great care of your children and we appreciate this is a worrying time for everyone. The facts are that young children are less likely to catch COVID-19 and we are doing all we can to keep children safe in school. Please refer to our flowchart which is replicated at the back of this newsletter. If your child is ill with cold symptoms that you recognise in them such as a runny nose, sneezing, sore throat or mild cough but has NO high temperature without Calpol, or loss of sense of smell or taste, we suggest keeping them at home and monitoring their temperature. If it is only a slight cold with no COVID-19 symptoms they can come to school. COVID-19 tests need to be taken in the first five days should there be any of the symptoms described in the flowchart, and a household should self isolate for 14 days unless tests come back negative. If a child has a tummy upset they must stay at home for 48 hours at least until the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea, as this is very quickly spread in school if a child comes back too soon. Although the Government has stated that attendance is important, and we of course agree, parents will not be penalised for their child's absence for illness. If the illness causes very low attendance we will work with parents to try and help improve this. We are trying at all times to keep the whole school as safe and healthy as possible.

Home Learning

We are working to complete a new home learning schedule in the event of a child self-isolating with family at home for two weeks or more, the possible closure of a class or year group bubble, or the possible partial or full closure of the school under Government guidance. If you have difficulty accessing the internet please let the school know. Home Learning will be posted up on the school website in the event of a bubble or school closure. We are sending home a link for Year 1 and 2 parents to a survey to ask you what you thought of the home learning last and if there was anything that you thought could have been better.

Friends of Shinfield

Our school fundraising PTA

We are meeting up via Zoom

Monday 21st September 7.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86546388597?pwd=djJtSUF3cXNzOEtWUEUydWJyNWMydz09>

Meeting ID: 865 4638 8597

Passcode: Shinfield

As we will be unable to hold large events on the school site for some time, we would welcome any exciting new ideas for fundraising and building our school community. Come along to the meeting and join in with the fun as well as getting to know other parents!

Plum Class

Plum Class have a new teacher, appointed to cover Mrs Devos during her maternity leave. I would like to welcome Mrs April Milne-Smith, who will be starting properly with the class on Friday 18th September. In the meantime Miss Hulme will teach the class with the support of Miss Lendrum (who will stay on with the class as their Teaching Assistant). Miss Hulme will then join Year 2 and will be teaching Maths and English groups and team teaching or covering classes in Year 2 in the afternoons. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Year 2 children to have extra teaching support. Huge thanks to Miss Hulme for supporting Plum Class and for her great support for Elm Class last year. I wish her all the best in Year 2!

COVID SYMPTOMS AT HOME FLOW CHART

