

Friday 1st October 2021

Covid

We are up to 5 confirmed cases so far this term. It seems strange talking about it as not so long ago we would be closing classes and doing home learning by now.

All we can do is maintain hygiene controls, have good ventilation and emphasise the need to keep up LFT testing if possible and go for PCRs if symptomatic or you have a positive LFT. Remember, we can refuse entry to school if a child has one of the three main symptoms.

I mentioned last week about our current value of Determination. I was really pleased to receive an email in the week from Nevaeh Obinwajei's mum who told me how Nevaeh has been determined to finish building her pyramid. It's lovely to get messages like this.

Our music choices this week have been Flight of the Bumble Bee and The Elephant from Carnival of the Animals in KS1. KS2 have been listening to The Sabre Dance. Holly Johnson and Ruby May Daniels have been listening to our music choices at home which is lovely to hear.

The photographer will be coming in on the 13th for child photos. Unfortunately he is not able to do group photos at this time. I'm sorry about that. I know how many of you like to get younger brothers and sisters on the photos. He will do brothers and sisters who are attending the school but not pre-schoolers. Sorry.

Punctuality

There has already been over 200 late marks this term which is not very good at all.

Many of these lates are just a few minutes which makes me think that children could easily make it on time if there was a bit more urgency or maybe set an alarm five minutes earlier. Being on time is so important. Every minute counts now as children are doing skills, organising resources and receiving instructions for the morning. A child coming in late can be very disruptive to the class as well as embarrassing for the child.

	Sherwood	Delamere	Thetford	Grizedale	Whinfell	Epping
Lates	41	60	23	33	34	9
Lates per child	2.4	2.2	0.9	1.2	1.5	3
Number of children with a late mark	7 out of 17	15 out of 28	7 out of 26	9 out of 28	9 out of 22	1 out of 3

There is a total of 48 children contributing to all the lates this term. I am sure many of these could be avoided. Please try to establish good routines in the morning and encourage children to get the things they need before they go to bed.

I will be writing to all parents with 1 or more late marks to reinforce this message. After a little chat last week with a family, they have been on time almost every day and so the children are receiving a certificate. I will be doing a reward scheme after half term.

I attended an interesting course this week about how sleep quality is affected by tablets and phones etc. I will share some of the resources and info with you over the next few weeks. Sleep isn't just resting. It is a really important time for our minds and bodies.

Why do we need a good quality sleep?

- Body and brain recovery
- Filter out waste from brain
- Strengthen and develop new brain connections
- Move short-term memories into long-term storage
- Growth hormones released
- Immune system 'fighters' released
- Prevents long-term illnesses
- Process emotions and recover from trauma
- Manage appetite
- Manage mood and behaviour

More to follow next time.

Updates and info are easily viewable at

<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you and have a lovely weekend ☺