

Friday 8th October 2021

Covid

Parents have so far been very supportive with taking children for testing and/or isolating if there is any doubt. Thank you very much for that.

Unfortunately the attendance rules at the moment state that I can only authorise absence if children are ill or waiting for test results. Also there is no leeway now for keeping children off due to covid anxiety like we were able to do last year. I am sorry about this as I completely understand why parents may be anxious.

It was lovely to see so many parents at our science event on Thursday. The organisers were very impressed and it looked like there was a lot of learning that took place for children and grown-ups!

Photographs are on Wednesday (13th) next week if you want to make sure children are extra smart.

I have become aware this week of the programme Squid Game and how it is now being used as a theme in Roblox. I hope none of our children are watching Squid Game as it is a 15 certificate but there are some adult themes that are being used in Roblox games so I would ask parents to be vigilant.

We have had 3 nominations for the vacant parent governor position which is great to see. Thank you to Claire Plumpton, Emma Williams and Hazel Bibby. We will send out voting papers next week.

I have some sad news to report about governors. One of our long time governors, Alan Greggs sadly passed away this week. It was very sudden and we are all devastated. Many of you will know Alan from his time running the shop opposite school and of course through the Good Manners awards that he instigated. Alan has been a dedicated and selfless advocate for children around Halton and further afield as well as a good friend to staff and children past and present and he will be greatly missed.

Punctuality

	Sherwood	Delamere	Thetford	Grizedale	Whinfell	Epping
Lates this week	3	8	3	1	7	1
Number of children late	2	4	2	1	4	1
Total minutes missed	52	61	9	10	66	15

Punctuality has been slightly better this week than other weeks but 23 lates in one week is still a lot for a primary school where most of the children are only travelling a short distance. Let's try and get it down to under 15 next week.

Reading

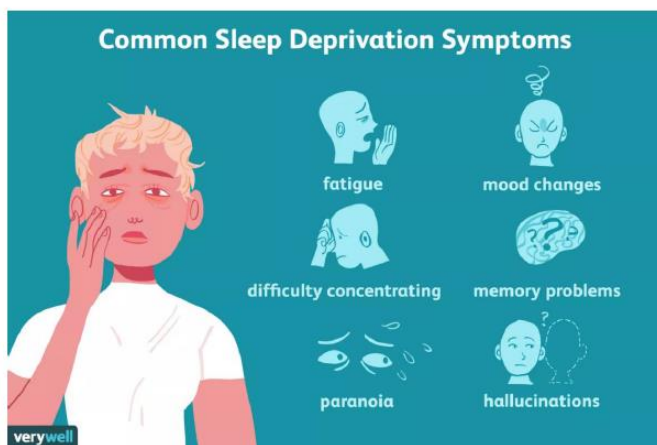
Reading is continuing to be promoted across Halton. We are having a couple of author days in school. One is today with Susan Brownrigg for KS2 and there is another for KS1 on Tuesday. Also, I understand that parents want to see their children progress through the reading scheme to show how much better they are doing. However, please be patient. We need to improve reading fluency as well so often it is helpful for a child to read a slightly easier book. They should be able to read this much faster which shows a fluent sight vocabulary. If children only ever struggle with a book, it becomes off-putting for them.

Sleep

This week's sleep information is about the effects of poor sleep on children's performance in school. We do see quite a lot of these symptoms, particularly poor concentration and difficulty absorbing new information. I know it's not as easy as just 'putting children to bed earlier' and there are lots of issues affecting children at home. Future weeks will focus on what we can do about it.

What if we don't get enough sleep?

Short-term effects



Consequences for children at school:

- Tired and unable to concentrate
- Low mood
- Poor memory
- Unable to absorb new information
- Poor behaviour
- Increased dishonesty
- Increased hunger and desire for unhealthy snacks

Updates and info are easily viewable at <https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you and have a lovely weekend ☺