

Friday 10th December 2021

### Covid

School has been hit pretty hard this week as you know and it's quite remarkable that we've been able to continue without switching to remote learning.

I know parents are upset about the change in Nativity arrangements, we are upset as well. It was one of the hardest decisions I've had to make because I know how much it means to so many of you. At the end of the day though, I have to balance the health and safety of all stakeholders and the advice I received was steering us towards this decision.

Possibly related to Covid is the amount of general sickness we have had this week. There are 36 children off as I write this. Many seem to be sickness which was considered a secondary symptom of Covid not so long ago. This too has had a massive effect on the nativity as Mrs Whitaker hasn't had any consistency with her cast each day.

Please do consider getting PCR tests if you think there may be a chance that children or yourselves may be positive. Remember we have lots of LFD test kits in school if you need more for asymptomatic testing.

### Staff Shout Out

I think Jo and Shell in the office deserve a shout out this week.

They have been very busy this week taking calls about illness and checking absence for those that haven't managed to ring. They will also be busy sending out free school meal vouchers for Christmas. Your vouchers should be emailed over the weekend and they work out as £20 per week per child.

### Dates

We are still hopeful of having parties for the children. They will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. Children can wear party clothes (appropriate for the weather) or bring them to change into. Grizedale class will have theirs on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Safeguarding

I'm sure you will have been as appalled as we were this week to read the terrible reports of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and the tragic end to his life. May he rest in peace.

It does serve as a reminder as to why it is so important that we make checks on children when absent and why we need to do visual checks when we haven't seen them in a while.

Mrs Percival will usually do home visits but our welfare officer, Mr Purcell will also do them sometimes.

### Ask the Awkward!

Here is a link to a new campaign aimed at parents and carers relating to online behaviour, primarily for older brothers and sisters.

Being online is an important part of how young people 'do' relationships. Young people are using online spaces for their social and romantic lives. Research demonstrates that they would like their parents and carers to talk with them more about this. We know that these topics aren't always easy to talk about, so #AskTheAwkward has been created to help explore online relationships with secondary aged children, making these conversations part of everyday life.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ask-the-awkward/>

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

Mr Collings	Head.woodside@halton.gov.uk
Joanne	sec.woodside@halton.gov.uk
Michelle	admin.woodside@halton.gov.uk
Mrs Percival	senco.woodside@halton.gov.uk
School mobile	07395 126470

Thank you and have a lovely weekend ☺