

Shebbear Community School

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Amid all the stories of parties at Downing Street, it was announced this week that Covid restrictions are being significantly eased. Pupils at secondary school will no longer be required to wear face coverings (primary pupils never have been). While the restrictions are being lifted, there are still cases of Covid around including some in other local schools.

At the same time, I am very mindful that the children have lived under quite limiting restrictions in school for nearly two years. Therefore, we do have a plan to ease these in a phased way which will continue to take into account local case rates and can be reversed as necessary.

From Monday, we will discontinue the class bubbles while children are outside. This will give everyone far more space to run around and play with their friends. We will encourage the children to avoid close contact such as hugging, particularly those from other classes.

If rates continue to fall locally, we will start whole school assemblies (in the hall rather than online) from the week commencing 31st January. Day to day, the children are naturally in their class bubbles anyway. We will continue to maintain this for the time being but, by early February, we should be able to allow more free mixing between classes.

One area we won't change for the time being, not least as it is working well, will be lunchtimes in the hall. The staggered lunch arrangements means that the older children now have more time on the playground and less time waiting to be served their lunch in the hall. We will also maintain the separate seating arrangements for the classes while actually eating their lunches.

In terms of PE Friday; this has generally been quite popular and the majority of feedback suggests that people like this arrangement. I am mindful that it pushes PE lessons into one day (except those going



Upcoming Events

February 21

Half term week

March 3

World Book Day

March 21

Parent consultations this week

Learning Awards

Teddy – Oakley and Freddie

Panda – Rachel and Kade

Koala – Tom and Reggie

Drake had most house points this week



swimming) but it has also saved lots of learning time and lots of lost uniform. I'll review this towards the end of term and ahead of the warmer summer months.

In line with the wider government guidance, there will no longer be a requirement to wear a mask when dropping off or collecting from school. However, I would ask that those going into the school building to drop off Teddy class children, DO continue to wear their masks for the time being. Likewise, I would suggest that those who feel more comfortable doing so or are perhaps more vulnerable, continue to wear their mask at the start and end of school.

I hope that all sounds sensible and proportionate.

Best wishes,

Mr Alford

Other news this week

School email: Apologies for the lack of email service over the last couple of days. It literally just stopped working on Wednesday morning for no apparent reason. It has made us all appreciate how much we rely on this form of communication but also how liberating it is trying to get things done without constant pinging of new messages dropping into your inbox!

Football: On Wednesday afternoon, we had our first school football match for nearly two years. It was against our local rivals Shebbear College. The final score was 5-0 to our friends up the road. However, this doesn't real tell the full story. The team played really well and improved as the game went on against strong opposition. They continued to work hard until the final whistle and should be proud of their efforts.

Term Time Holidays: Speaking to other head colleagues, one of the few positive aspects of the last two years has been the drop off in requests for term time holidays. With the travel industry moving back to some level of normality, a number of letters have come in of late. The rules do remain the same that term time holidays are only permitted in exceptional circumstances. The higher cost during a school holiday is not an exceptional circumstance and I am never able to take this into consideration. I would always urge you to book breaks during the school holidays. They have missed so much school

Useful Links

School Contact Details

Tel: 01409 281220

Email: admin@shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk

Website:

<http://www.shebbear-pri.devon.sch.uk/>

Safeguarding: Any concerns should be reported to Mr Alford who is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In his absence contact Mrs Gough or Mrs Evans.

Up-coming Term Dates:

Half Term is the week of the 21st February

The last day of term is Friday 8th April.

Summer term starts on Monday 25th April

May Bank Holiday is on Monday 2nd May

in the last two years already. I do consider each application on a case by case basis using the school policy as a guide. The children's current attendance, the amount of time requested along with the circumstances, are what I would normally use to decide whether I can or cannot authorise an absence. If it's the latter and the holiday is taken anyway, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and will be passed on to the Educational Welfare Officer who may decide to issue a fixed penalty notice which is currently £60 per pupil per parent.

Don't forget that there is a long weekend later in the year where you may be able to take advantage of some good deals. The school will be closed on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st June meaning there is potential for a four day break.

Census Day: Thanks to everyone who signed up to have a school lunch on Thursday, in particular those in Teddy class. There was an excellent take up which really helps our school funding.

Art Club: Please see some examples of the work children in art club have been producing. Sadly, Monday is the last session for the time being. Hopefully art club will return later in the year.

