

Overton St Helen's Primary

School family news



Issue 26

7.5.21

COVID GUIDANCE UPDATES

On Monday Boris Johnson announced that the country was on course for coming out of lockdown, which means that from next Monday 17th May, we will see more restrictions eased. Schools received further guidance from the DFE the day after, letting us know the implications of this next stage for schools. Many of our control measures will need to remain in place for the next five weeks; a cautionary approach is the best way forward at present. However we have decided upon a few small changes to our routine at present that pose very little risk. Firstly, due to the fact that parents are still following our one way system around the outside of the building where social distancing can take place, face coverings will no longer be needed at pick-up and drop-off times. If you feel more comfortable continuing to wear your face-covering, please do not feel under pressure to take it off. We have also decided for the good of our pupils, to reintroduce gradual socialising between classes. At the moment, our classes remain separate for the whole of the school day, however from next Monday we will allow two classes to play together on the school field, where we are outside and in plenty of space. It may seem a small thing, but to encourage children to get to know pupils from other classes builds up language and social skills, confidence and self-esteem. It is a very subtle but important part of primary school provision that has been sorely missed over the last 12 months. Hopefully in another 5 weeks time I can announce further easing of restrictions which will see our school being able to work as a whole once more and welcome more people in through the doors. In the meantime thank you for your patience and support with all we have had to put in place.

SCHOOL COUNCIL 'ANIMAL DAY'

Before Christmas when our school council was meeting regularly, they established a list of ambitions they wished to accomplish this academic year. One vision, was a flash fund-raising day for their chosen charity of the year, Heysham Wildlife Trust. So, in order to support them in achieving their objectives, on Friday 28th May which is the last day of this half-term, we are having a special day focussed on animals. Each class will concentrate on a chosen animal and all the day's activities in class will revolve around it. The school council are also going to be inviting everyone to dress up as an animal for the day including all the staff! The school council will be very grateful for any donations, large or small to be brought in on the day to help them in their ambition of raising money for this excellent cause. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Next Thursday, 20th May, the school photographer will be in taking photos of Overton St Helen's good looking pupils! She will begin by gathering siblings together for family photos before moving on to take individuals of each child in school. She will be also taking vista photographs of Reception and Year 6 to mark their first and last years with us. Can I remind parents that unfortunately due to restrictions, we cannot invite pre-school siblings to come and have their photos taken too, but hopefully next year we can offer this once more.

PICKING-UP ROUTINES

As national COVID data improves day after day and as the sun tries hard to breakthrough the clouds, I appreciate it is more tempting to allow time for children to run around our school field or track at pick-up times. However can I please remind all parents that even more so now with the removal of face coverings, our one-way system puts people at ease and gives reassurance that caution is still being had. Can I ask that parents move off premises as quickly as possible so that social distancing can still be maintained. Many thanks.

SEND IT OUR WAY

Thanks again for the old plant pots sent our way when we were collecting for our flower-pot man in Forest School. We are now on the look out for other things. Mrs Marsland and Miss Morson wanted to put a request for any 'grown out of' socks, tights, or underwear that are always handy to have in at school when little accidents happen. Mrs Ingham is looking out for any unwanted seeds or seedlings we can plant out in our school grounds.

More specifically, we are also on the lookout for large log slices to replace our outdoor seating in Forest School. I realise that these are things that you won't have casually lying around at home, however if anyone knows of any way to get hold of some of these, we would be very grate-

DON'T FORGET YOUR COAT

I want to break free from my winter coat and thick socks but unfortunately the weather is against us at the moment with cold winds and showers. Although we are all desperate for some prolonged good weather, please remember to send a coat with your child so that they can still go out and let off steam at break times without getting soaked. Thanks.

SUMMER TERM DATES

Below are some key dates for the Summer Term.

Thurs 20th May: School photos (details to follow)

Tues 25th & Thurs 27th: OAK outdoor activity away-days

Fri 28th May: School Council 'Animal Day'

School finishes for half-term break

Mon 7th June: Staff INSET Day - school closed

Tues 8th June: School reopens after half-term break

Wed 16th & Thurs 17th June: Parents meetings

Wed 30th June: Y6 Ripley Transition Day (tbc)

Tues 6th Jul: Maple, Holly and Elm walk to Sunderland Pt (tbc)

Fri 9th July: Rose Queen Celebrations (details tbc)



PARKING

I am fully aware that there has been some real tension with parking issues and Lancaster Rd residents over the last few weeks. I have passed matters over to our local PCSO but can I remind all parents to please park responsibly at drop off and pick up times.

ROSE QUEEN

After the new COVID guidance was issued on Tuesday, signalling no significant changes for schools at the moment, our thoughts turned towards Rose Queen and the question of whether it can go ahead. We are now rushing headlong in to the summer months and the time when we begin our preparations for this event. We have decided that although we cannot confirm what arrangements will be in place on the day, the show must go on and so we will begin to talk about Rose Queen with our older girls and boys, putting to them the question of what roles they wish to be considered for. Our children were sad to miss our Rose Queen celebration last year when for the first time in its history, it had to be cancelled. We cannot say as yet whether parents will be able to join us on the day (I very much hope that you will) but our Rose Queen will go ahead, at the very least for the pupils, this year.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Well done to Edie, Martha, Antonia, Izaak, Zac, William, Sam, Josh and

Liam who are our Stars of the Week this week for brilliant writing and drawing, working independently with focus and added concentration. Well done indeed!

