



AWLISCOMBE PRIMARY NEWS

Newsletter

01/10/2021

01404 42031 Website: www.fort.devon.sch.uk

The next few days

Monday 4 th October	-	
Tuesday 5 th October	-	
Wednesday 6 th October	-	Guitar lessons
Thursday 7 th October	-	Census day
	-	Piano lessons
Friday 8 th October	-	Non-pupil day

Message from the Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents,

Our first Harvest festival since September 2019! That sounds shocking doesn't it. On the positive side it has been fantastic to be able to come together again and sing and share the wonderful work of the children. Thank you for the donations for harvest, they will stay in the church and be added to, by the local community. There will be many people who will benefit from the generous donations.

Our challenge when holding any service in the church now will be its capacity issue. With over 100 children in our school, we will never be able to accommodate all children, and all parents during one service, and it isn't always feasible to perform multiple services every time. We have decided to share the special times of year out. So, Harvest was for Robins to lead. Nativity will be for swans and Robins and the carol service will be for Woodpeckers and Kingfishers. Easter will be for Woodpeckers to lead, and the leavers service will be for Kingfishers class. Parents of those classes will be invited to join us at church for the service. It's a real shame we won't be able to do whole school events, but we just can't fit you all in.

COVID update- We are still so very lucky to have no COVID positives at our school but I do need you to be vigilant of the three core symptoms that we need to be watching for. A persistent cough, high temperature and lose of taste. If you or your child has any of these symptoms, please go for a PCR test. Children do not need a lateral flow test but a PCR test if they are symptomatic. This is very important. Infection rates in schools are increasing so we need to keep a close eye on our children. I have included a message from the Director of Public health Devon for you to read.

Director of Public Health sets out clear advice for parents of school-age children

Director of Public Health assures parents that the approach seen in schools to rising cases of coronavirus aligns directly to government and public health guidance.

Posted on: 30 September 2021

Nationally and locally we are seeing a rise in coronavirus cases among the school-age population, but in almost all those cases the young person has shown no sign of having the virus, or only very mild symptoms, public health experts confirm.

Public Health Devon says they're aware that many parents are anxious about the case rates within schools.

Our Director of Public Health, Steve Brown, said today:

"Although case rates generally in Devon are below national average, we are continuing to see a rise in coronavirus cases in school age children, and it is likely that this will continue.

"The fact that most cases show no sign, or very little sign of having the virus, emphasises the importance of regular testing in order to identify people carrying and potentially spreading the virus."

Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon

Steve Brown has set out clear advice to parents:

- If your child has symptoms of coronavirus, they should not go to school. They should take a PCR test - not a lateral flow device test - and they should self-isolate pending the result of that test. Lateral flow device tests are only for people who show no symptoms of having the virus.*
- If your child is identified as a close contact, including if someone in your household tests positive, they should take a PCR test. However, unless they have symptoms of coronavirus, they are not required to stay off school while they wait for the test results.*
- If your child tests positive with a routine lateral flow device test, they should stay at home and arrange a PCR test. They should isolate whilst awaiting the result of the PCR test. If the PCR test is positive, they should continue self-isolating. If the PCR test is negative, they can return to school, but they should continue to routinely take the lateral flow device tests twice a week.*
- And to all secondary school age pupils and their teachers, they should be taking lateral flow device tests twice a week.*

"We all know how much learning has been disrupted these last 18 months," said Steve Brown.

“What’s important now, whilst we are all living with COVID, is that we try to keep COVID-19 case rates as low as possible, to enable as many children as possible to stay in school.

“Where we see large outbreaks in schools, we and those schools work closely together to agree any additional control measures to put in place to help control the spread of the virus.

“However, with the national change in guidance around close contacts and self-isolation, schools will only ask classes or year groups to stay at home, to be taught remotely, as a very last resort.

“We know that this change in approach has caused some concerns with parents, and challenge to our schools about their response to increased cases, and I assure parents that the approach we have seen from schools aligns directly to the government and public health guidance.

“We are working collaboratively across all sectors to ensure that there is an appropriate response to this new phase of living with coronavirus.”

Public Health experts also say that a lot of young people at the moment have got coughs and sniffles most commonly associated with winter illnesses.

“There is also a lot of seasonal illness among young people at the moment. If your child has symptoms such as fever, diarrhoea and/or vomiting- even if they test negative with a PCR test for coronavirus - please keep your child off school or nursery to avoid spreading other infections.”

If you have any questions regarding symptoms or PCR testing, please don't hesitate to contact me. Schools are no longer responsible for track and trace so the only information I need to report on is positive PCR cases. Please ring the office as soon as you are symptomatic and going for a PCR test. When it comes to siblings in the family who have tested positive unless told to get PCR'ed as a close contact all other children should continue to come to school.

I know it all seems very complicated but don't hesitate to ask if you have any queries.

*Mrs Hammett
Penny*

Star of the Week - Well Done To....

<u>Cygnets</u>	George	
<u>Swans</u>	Bowie	
<u>Robins</u>	Jorgie	Harvey
<u>Woodpeckers</u>	Leo L	George
<u>Kingfishers</u>	Samuel	Theo

Notices to Parents

Flu Vaccination

As you are all aware the flu immunisation team are coming in on the 8th November for the annual flu vaccination.

The electronic consent links will be sent out to the school, 2 weeks beforehand.

Data Collection Sheets

Thank you to all that have returned their data collection sheets, still waiting on a few, please check, sign and return to Peta on Monday.

Bags2School

Can you start collecting all your unused/unwanted clothes for our collection of Bags 2 Schools on Thursday 4th November 21. More information will follow shortly.

Shoe Box Appeal 2021

Once again, we are running the Christmas Shoebox Appeal on behalf of Blythwood Care. Suggested items include toiletries, stationery, clothing, small toys and sweets. Additional information available on www.shoeboxappeal.org. The leaflet's will be sent out as soon as they arrive at school. Please return your filled shoeboxes to the school by Thursday 11th November 2021.

Census Day

Next Thursday (7th) is a school census day. It is an important day for schools as the school pupil numbers on that day will determine the budget for the following 12 months. However, the financial contribution towards universal school dinners is decided for the year on the number of children ordering dinners on Thursday. Please can I ask that you encourage your child to have a school dinner on Thursday as it makes a significant difference to the school finances?

Science

Sidmouth Science Festival is fast approaching and will run from 8th - 17th October.

There will be activities and informative talks for all ages to inspire and stimulate curious minds. You can check out what's on offer by visiting www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

This year, our children have contributed to the Sidmouth Science Festival, producing some fantastic art work based on astronomy. The children have worked really hard on this and their work is truly amazing.

If you get chance, please go along to see it. It will be displayed in Kennaway House from 7th - 13th October.

Mrs Matchett.

Messages sent - via Schoolping

Harvest festival

Kids Café

Ballet details

Census day menu change

21/2022 Academic Year

7th October - Census Day

8th October - Non-pupil day

25th - 29th October - Half term

4th November - Bags2School collection

11th November - Shoeboxes being collected

17th December - Last day of term for pupils

30th June - Yr6 Information Evening 5 - 6pm

4th - 6th July - Transition days for Sept 2022 intake



**Friday 8th to
Sunday 17th Oct 2021**

In and around Sidmouth with some online events
or all online subject to government guidelines.

**Food,
materials,
robots,
dinosaurs,
astronomy,
geology
and much more...**



Sponsored by



For the latest information look on our website www.sidmouthsciencefestival.org

BOOK AMNESTY

8th September –
8th October 2021

Return overdue Books, CDs and
DVDs to your local library for free
– no questions asked



**Libraries
Unlimited**

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