



25<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Impact of Covid-19 and December Events @StreatleySch**

Today is a whole month away from Christmas presents, a turkey dinner and the joy of a Christmas pudding on fire. A few weeks back I bought spiced mini mince pies and snowy fondants for the staff, they all went down a treat. This autumn term has felt darker and milder compared to previous years. It is great to see high vis items, reflectors and lights on the children's coats and bags. In the early 2000s, we used to get a massive box of animal shaped reflectors from a well-known bank. The children clipped them onto their book bags and zippers. 'Be seen, be safe' the little hedgehogs used to say on the adverts.

This autumn term we have juggled a considerable amount of absence due to Covid-19. Our focus has remained on teaching and learning. Staff members have had their own children out of school due to Covid-19 as well as them contracting the virus too. All cases have been shared and reported to you if your child has been a close contact. Quite often, the staff member has caught Covid-19 from their child, which is likely given the nature of the relationship.

In schools at present we are all covering somewhere in school in an addition to our roles, whether this be staff absence or due to recruitment. Today we updated our risk assessment, as we are four weeks into the half term and the Covid cases amongst Primary School aged children overtook Secondary aged pupils' infection cases last week. West Berkshire Covid Schools' infection data is sent to heads weekly, we were two weeks behind the trend last time when it peaked – this was just before half term. Therefore, I am making decisions now for the remaining three weeks of term to minimise disruption and staff burnout.

### **Christmas lunch and singing**

In school, the children this year will have their Christmas lunch in their class groups rather than a prolonged sitting with trimmings. Singing will only happen in the hall in class groups as ventilation is key. If children sing in class, doors and windows will be opened wider/fully and the room will be left empty for 15 minutes after. All classes have a CO2 monitor so we are aware of the air circulation.



### **Ventilation and warmth**

In school, the children can wear their fleeces over their jumpers and cardigans, but they still need a waterproof coat.

### **Advent and the Nativity Story**

The children will discuss in their classes with Jo Allen and Reverend Ben Phillips advent and the story of Jesus' birth. We will not be holding a Carol service or Nativity separate from discussing the Christian festival. Reverend Ben Phillips and Jo Allen with no doubt be sending us a list of their Christian events in due course for you as a family to enjoy safely and by your choice.

### **Christmas jumpers and sparkle**

Mrs Gardner parent of Max YrFS and Fred Yr4, is our FoSS chair and we have briefly discussed class parties and these having a disco feature. This way we can have Christmas jumpers and festive party games in a safer environment. I do believe Father Christmas is also taking a lateral flow and he will visit before the end of term. Class teachers will decide dates soon for jumpers and party times.

### **Covid-19 amongst children @StreatleySch**

This week due to zero cases in children in our school, we were able to take part in our theatre trip thanks to your fund raising efforts with Foss funding. Two coaches and 117 tickets enabled the children to see Jungle Book at the Watermill Theatre. It is a very small venue but big enough for us to sit together. We had many a sleepless nights about cases potentially arising before this date. Thank you to you all for making this possible – financially e.g. taking part in the pumpkin trails.

### **Junior Music Festival**

Yesterday we took some children from years 4, 5 and 6 to The Hexagon to film them singing in the performance called 'A change is a'comin' with Berkshire Maestros. The event is called the Junior Music Festival and we take part each year with keen and enthusiastic singers. The performance was about Climate Change and how we and the children can have hope despite the difficulties the earth faces as a result of humans. We were very proud of the children who took part on the day and all their efforts to rehearse.



### Parent tours 2022-2023

Last week we held two Open Days for parents new to the Foundation Stage in 2022. We showed many parents around the school with the support of the head persons. These children are Siri, Lily and Patrick. They all conducted themselves perfectly and they supported my discussions by sharing their great experiences here at Streatley. Whilst walking around our beautiful site we pointed out that our website **Learning** tab refers to our ethos and our approach to school life and education specifically to here. **Class pages** have timetables, themes and overviews of topics.

We prioritise wellbeing, outdoor experiences in nature/seasons and reading. We ensure our children enter the juniors ready for the big shift 'reading to learn' and enjoying reading for pleasure. We encourage you as parents through the **home school agreement** you sign to support homework (rehearsal - increases the children's fluency with numbers (KIRFs and Doodlemaths) as well as age appropriate spelling patterns.

The children talked about their positive connections with the younger children, their influence and involvement in the school's direction (decisions/student leadership). They were a real credit to the school's vision of happy, healthy humans. The parents were very impressed with the class' learning foci explained very clearly by the heads, all attitudes and purpose for learning.

### Feed the birds #Winter

Thanks to the Francis' family, we are always able to replenish our gardening and wildlife care. In the summer they opened their gardens with a tea room to the public. They raised monies and some of this comes to school in recent years. We have been able to buy feeders, feed and a birdbath. All feeders are out of reach to support Archie (minimise contact) should there be any cross contamination. #nutfree

Thank you so much, happy beaks around here. The children can do some twitching.

### Christmas Chocolate

If you were to buy anything for your children's class or make Christmas food, please remember nuts and sesame sneak up in all pastes and chocolate brands, e.g. Lindt, this has hazelnut in it.



### After School

After school I am happy with parents chatting and children playing in the bushes, however we need a recreation ground approach, no coming back into the building. Staff have training and meetings most evenings, we need no 'toilet' requests. Please meet at another venue if you need toilet facilities. The Bull has great drinks and food offers with a great garden and trees.

### Recruitment

Please see our website vacancy page for a permanent teaching assistant position.

### Thank you

We look forward to the next three weeks (15 days) together before 2022! It has been a difficult year again for schools and their communities. From us all here, thank you for your understanding with all things Covid related.

Miss Roberts, the governors and staff.

### School website calendar

<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>2nd December</b> All Day Rugby - Y3/4 & Y5/6
<b>TUESDAY</b> <b>7th December</b> 7:50am - 4:00pm Yr 5/6 Mary Rose Trip
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>8th December</b> All Day Christmas Dinner
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>9th December</b> All Day Rugby - Y3/4 & Y5/6
<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>17th December</b> All Day End of term - early finish 2pm