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Autumn Term Update 6

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you continue to be well. Things at school are going well although we have noticed that the children (and staff) are now looking quite tired! This week will be the 8th week back in school and we know from past experience that long half terms can be very tiring for everyone. Under the current circumstances I think it has been even more tiring as the staff and children try to keep up with cleaning and learning during the school day.

We have decided to make this week more relaxed with an opportunity to do some activities such as yoga, art, design technology and music. This is clearly going to be a long year so in order to look after everyone's well-being we need to ensure that we are pacing ourselves appropriately. The children have worked incredibly hard over the past 7 weeks to get used to the new routines and get back into their learning. We are so proud of the way they have conducted themselves on the return to the building.

There are just a few things to update you on this week:

What would happen in the event of a positive Covid case at school?

So far we have had no pupil or staff positive cases but we know from looking at the local situation that this could happen at any time. When this happens this is the process we will follow if we get that information during the school day:

1. The affected bubble will be isolated in their classroom. Surrounding bubbles in joining classrooms will be alerted.
2. All bubbles will be brought into their own classrooms.
3. We will contact the Cumbria Covid Planning Group for advice and follow this up with calls to Public Health/DfE if needed.
4. Parents/carers of the affected bubble will be contacted by text and asked to collect their child immediately from a designated exit. Children will be dismissed one at a time with a letter explaining the next steps. Staff will be wearing PPE at this point.
5. After all the children in the bubble have been collected a text will go to all parents/carers in school to alert them of the bubble closure.



6. Local schools will be contacted to let them know that we have had a positive case.
7. Staff from the affected bubble will be sent home.
8. We will then contact our cleaning providers. Affected classroom will be sealed for 72 hours and then deep cleaned.

If we were notified of a positive case while the pupils were at home then we would contact you via text to let you know that your child's class/bubble is closed and inform you that your child would need to remain at home.

In either of these events our home learning plan will then be put into action for the affected bubble and work will be provided on a daily basis for the children who need to self-isolate. This would be communicated to you via the school website and through Class Dojo. The purple book that the children have already brought home will be used to record any learning. Paper packs would be provided for anyone without internet or suitable access to a device at home. Please let us know if you need paper packs in the event of home learning.

Snacks

Please can you ensure that children do not bring chocolate bars or sweets for their morning snack or in their packed lunches. Fizzy drinks in packed lunches are also banned. The school also remains to be a 'Nut Free' school so please do not send any food items containing nuts.

School Swimming

We are currently waiting for confirmation that school swimming can begin again after the half term break. When we have a confirmed date we will be in touch with parents/carers of pupils in Y4 with further information and an outline of the safety measures in place for transport and use of the pool facilities.

Fundraising

Now we are settled back in school our focus is turning to fundraising opportunities. As usual we will be taking part in Children in Need Day on Friday 13th November and Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children on Friday 11th December. Further details will follow after half term. If you would like to get involved in school fundraising through Friends of Ashfield then please contact Mrs Sibbald in our school office. We are looking for ideas of what we can do to replace our usual Christmas Fayre this year as this always helps us to raise much needed funds to support our activities in school.

Halloween

Our usual Halloween discos organised by Friends of Ashfield obviously cannot go ahead this year. We decided that we would not organise anything as an alternative in school as we did



not want to put pressure on families to buy costumes or food for 'bubble' parties. I hope you understand our decision. Please can I also ask you to consider carefully the Halloween activities that you take part in over half term. We have worked very hard in school over the past 8 weeks to keep year groups apart and so prevent potential infection spread, please support us by trying to help with this over the holiday where you can.

Thanks again for all your support this half term. It has been a real team effort to ensure that everything has gone to plan and that we keep each other as safe and well as we possibly can. I hope you all have a restful and safe week next week. Next half term is likely to be even busier than this one has been!

Best wishes to everyone.

Mrs S Frost
Headteacher