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Autumn Term Update 8

Dear Parents & Carers

You'll be pleased to know it's a short one this week, well fairly short!

School Office

Please remember to only call at the school office if it is absolutely essential. If you have a query or some information to pass on, please do this via telephone or email. We need to ensure that only essential visitors are coming into the school building, this includes the reception area.

Upcoming Events

Today we are marking Children in Need Day. The theme this year is children's mental health so we are all wearing something that makes us feel good and having a dance in the hall. This will all be done in a Covid secure way, keeping year group bubbles separate, ventilating the room and hand sanitising when needed.

Next week we are marking Anti-Bullying Week. This year's theme is United Against Bullying. Our assemblies will focus on this and there will be some activities for children to take part in in their classrooms. To start the week there is an Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th.

Flu vaccinations

NHS staff will be joining us on Thursday next week to carry out the pupil nasal flu vaccinations. Thank you to everyone for returning letters stating that you wish your child to be included in this vaccination programme.

Assessments

Teachers will be assessing pupils in reading, writing and maths over the next two weeks. These will not be formal tests but will be done through teacher assessment of the evidence from work so far this term. This information will then be used to identify progress made since September and look at next steps for the rest of this term and the start of the Spring Term.



Christmas

After the events of the last few months we are keen to ensure that Christmas still takes place in school. Obviously it will look a little different this year but we are sure that there are still plenty of things we can do to celebrate. We are busy putting together a Christmas Committee from the staff here at school who will then work alongside our Friends of Ashfield parent group to plan events. If you are interested in joining Friends of Ashfield please contact Mrs Sibbald in our school office. If you have any good ideas for Covid-safe Christmas events/ fundraising activities please contact us at asibbald@ashfield-jun.cumbria.sch.uk.

Isolation

Please can you ensure that you share accurate information with us if someone in your family is being tested for Covid-19 or you have received a positive result. This information is vital so that we can ensure your child carries out the correct period of isolation before they return to school. Further information from Cumbria County Council on the rules around isolation can be found at the bottom of this letter. If there is anything you are unsure about please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

There has been some disruption to deal with in school this week linked to the current situation but as always we are doing our best to try to ensure school carries on as normal and the children are not adversely affected by this. Thank you for your continued support and patience with everything. Your little comments and messages to cheer us up and keep us going are very, very welcome! My thanks also go to all the staff at school for their continued hard work and dedication, their resilience is amazing.

Best wishes to everyone.

Mrs S Frost
Headteacher

Latest news release from Cumbria County Council regarding self-isolation:

When a member of your household develops symptoms of COVID-19

- When an adult or child develops one or more symptoms of COVID-19 (a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss of/change to their sense of taste and smell) they need to get tested as soon as possible and **the whole household needs to isolate at home immediately**.
- If the test result comes back NEGATIVE, the household can end their isolation (i.e. leave the house and return to normal including attending work and school) as long as:



- the individual with symptoms has not had a high temperature for 48 hours
- No-one else in the household has symptoms (if this is the case they also need to get tested and the household isolate until the result is known)
- Members of the household have not been told they need to self-isolate because they are a close-contact of a positive case from outside the household
- If the test comes back POSITIVE, the household should continue to isolate. The household should isolate for 14 days from the date that the person who has tested positive developed symptoms (or if they didn't have symptoms, the date they had their test)
- There is more information in the [Stay at Home guidance](#)

When a member of your household is told to isolate because they are a close contact of (or in the same bubble as) a positive case FROM A DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD

- When a child or adult is told by a school or local/national test and trace service to isolate, they should stay at home until the 'end of isolation' date advised
- Other members of the household DO NOT need to isolate (unless they are also identified as a close contact of a positive case). Of course, young children will need someone to stay at home with them
- The person who has been asked to isolate (because they are in the same bubble as a positive case, or have been identified as a close contact) does NOT need to get tested (unless they develop symptoms themselves). If they have symptoms or not, if they get a negative test result, they still need to isolate for the advised period of time (i.e. generally 14 days from the date they last had exposure to the positive case)