



Autumn Term Newsletter 2

Monday November 30th 2020



Dear parents/carers

As we get closer to the Christmas holidays may I once again thank you all so much for doing the right thing this term in keeping all of our children, families and staff safe. Since September we have only had to close one year-group, Y1, for 10 school days due to a single adult confirmed case. Not one of our Y1 children then developed symptoms due to the quick actions of staff. Because of our year-group bubble system and strict social-distancing between children and staff from different year-groups, this had no wider impact.

Only two of our 393 children have tested positive this term and fortunately, both were able to return to school fit and well immediately after their self-isolation.

Where other staff members, or staff's family members, have had symptoms, they have self-isolated immediately. Where results have been positive, their fast actions have meant no children or colleagues have had to self-isolate. So far, four members of SBPS staff have tested positive. My best wishes go to colleagues and parents/carers who have been/are unwell. My sincere thanks go to colleagues who have stepped in and worked so hard to cover the work-load, duties and responsibilities of colleagues self-isolating and/or unwell. Special thanks go to all the staff of SBPS and especially our Teaching Assistants who have gone above and beyond their duties and responsibilities to ensure our school can run safely and smoothly.

Attendance.

Attendance for our whole-school now stands at 97.8% (based on all non-covid absences.) This is our highest ever attendance figure.

Return to learning and curriculum.

The DFE hope for all schools to return to a Broad and Balance Curriculum by Summer 2021. Every class and every child in SBPS is already experiencing a fully broad and balanced curriculum. Children arrive in school each day with a fantastic attitude to learning. Routines in school are efficient and effective and even with extra hand-washing, staggered playtimes and lunchtimes etc... no time at all is wasted. Teachers are plugging the gaps in missed curriculum and working to ensure all children catch up on time spent away from school. Well done SBPS children.

Home Learning for self-isolating children whose class-mates are in school.

The system of home learning for children having short periods of self-isolation continues to work well. Please remember, every teacher prepares work for isolating children prior to every school week so that it is ready for any day that a child is self-isolating. Parents/carers do not need to contact school to ask for home-learning, it is there, ready. Please log on to Education City on the first day of any self-isolation and access learning. Children self-isolating for more than a few days will be contacted by school for welfare reasons and for teachers to comment on the work they have been doing. They will then receive more bespoke learning following the first 3 days. If your child is not contacted by their teacher, please let school know. It is vital that any child self-isolating, who is well enough to, must complete their home-learning in order to not fall behind their class-mates in school. Our main home-learning offer requires WIFI, a device such as a laptop, tablet, smartphone, Play Station, X Box etc... If your child is self-isolating and does not have a device then please let school know and we can provide one/deliver it. If you need a paper-based offer then again, please contact school and we will provide this.

Sadly, as previously mentioned, we did have to close one year-group this term for 10 school days. My sincere thanks go to the Y1 teaching team, the Y1 parents/carers and especially all the Y1 children

who learned from home each day. It was an absolute pleasure to join the classes each morning on Teams and to see the wonderful work done by the children, uploaded to SeeSaw. All staff are now fully trained and prepared for this scenario if it has to happen again.

KS2 Wellies.

The system for KS2 children to be able to use the school fields at morning and afternoon playtimes and at lunchtimes by quickly changing into their wellies is working well. Please encourage your KS2 child to do this as it greatly alleviates the pressures on space on the school yard by being able to use the huge areas of school field.

Charities.

Thank you for all the donations for charities this term. You raised £508 for Children in Need and a staggering £503 for the local charity organised by the NEU teaching union that will provide presents for needy local families. The local NE Union rep was flabbergasted by the amount raised by you all and sends personal thanks.

We will not be collecting money for any further charities this term but any and all donations for our local foodbanks will be warmly received.

Christmas.

Christmas in SBPS will be a little different from previous years and sadly, some things, like children exchanging cards in school, will not take place. However, there will still be lots of festive fun and children and parents/carers will still be able to enjoy school traditions. Children will still make a calendar to bring home. Children will make a card for family members. (Parents can decide how to/whether to quarantine things that come home from school.) Children can still enjoy a school Christmas lunch or bring in a Christmas packed lunch. On Christmas lunch day, children can wear a Christmas jumper **with their school uniform** and/or some tinsel? a santa hat? a Christmas headband? If they would like to. Children will still have a Christmas party where they can bring in party clothes to change into at lunchtime. SBPS Brass musicians and violinists will still perform traditional Christmas tunes, albeit recorded. Every class will still perform for parents/carers in a Christmas production, albeit recorded and not live. Children will all watch a pantomime. Children can still do Christmas giving by donating to our local food-banks. Please feel free to donate via school. We will collect, quarantine and deliver to our local food-banks before the end of term. Our children who don't celebrate Christmas will still have a lovely end of term and staff will ensure they are busy, learning and happy.

If I don't communicate again before the Christmas holiday. Thank you for your support and sensible actions and we look forward to a different? better? 2021.

Mr Bell

Calendar of Events December 2020 to July 2021

Please note some dates may change and hopefully LOTS of other dates will be added throughout the year.

Dates	Event
Monday December 14 th	Y2 and Y3 Christmas party afternoon.
Tuesday December 15 th	Y1 and Y4 Christmas party afternoon.
Wednesday December 16 th	YR and Y5 Christmas party afternoon.
Thursday December 17 th	Christmas lunch/Christmas packed lunch day. Not a non-uniform/party clothes day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper/tinsel/antlers/Xmas headband with school uniform.
Thursday December 17 th afternoon	Whole school watch a recorded pantomime.
Friday December 18 th	Y6 Christmas party afternoon.

December 18 th	Last day of Autumn term.
Dec 21 st to Jan 1 st	Christmas holiday.
Monday 4th January	Inset Day. School closed to children.
5 th January	First day of Spring term.
15 th to 20 th February	Half term holiday.
Saturday 6 th or 13 th March	Provisional Y4,5,6 ski trip week. (This is looking highly unlikely but we are on the list if it does go ahead.)
19 th March	Red Nose Day.
29 th March to 10 th April	Easter holiday.
12 th April	First day of Summer term.
12 th to 14 th April	Provisional Y6 Robin Wood residential.
3 rd May	Bank Holiday.
31 st May to 5 th June	Half term holiday.
TBC	Provisional Y5 residential.
16 th July.	Last day of summer term.
19 th and 20 th July	Inset days. School closed to children.