

Friday 28 May 2021



Update Letter

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well and looking forward to the half-term break and the possibility of some brighter, warmer weather.

It has been great to have had the stability of a full half-term in school, although it is not without its challenges in regards maintaining a safe number of staff in each class in school. Since my previous letter, we have had to close three classes due to insufficient numbers of staff to operate the class safely. As you know we have increased the bubble sizes, we now have 6 bubbles, with a maximum of three classes in each. This along with the use of supply agency staff is going some way to ensuring we can keep classes staffed safely but we need to do more to avoid further class closures.

I have a meeting planned with the governors the first week back to review the bubbles again and we are exploring the possibility of further increasing bubble sizes. Each of the three zones would become a larger bubble containing all classes within that zone. E.g., Zone A Beech Chestnut Maple Oak. I will write with further updates following the Governors meeting.

I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks to those parents who have been affected, you have been so incredibly patient and understanding. We will only ever close the class as an absolute last resort, and to have your understanding makes this incredibly difficult decision a little easier.

Events this half-term

It has been a very actioned packed half-term, seeing us celebrate the Songkran Festival, (Thai New Year) and more recently Eid al-Fitr, celebrating the end of Ramadan. We also recognised the importance of our Mental Health during our Mental Health Awareness Week and supported the Show Racism the Red Card initiative.

We are particularly proud of our Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) re-accreditation. We were visited (virtually) by Maureen Nash LPPA assessor on 15 May. We are so happy our collaborative team working with parents has been recognised and rewarded.

Staffing Update

Miss Liz Holden Teaching Assistant Level 3 in Beech Class has started her maternity leave and very recently saw the arrival of her second daughter Emily.

Pupil testing

We are continuing to test secondary age pupils twice per week onsite and a have small number of secondary age pupils testing at home. I am pleased to report we have had no pupils test positive. For pupils testing at home please continue with the twice weekly testing throughout the holidays.



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Staff Testing

Staff are continuing to test twice weekly at home on a Wednesday and a Sunday. Staff will also be continuing to test over the holiday too. I am pleased to report we have had no staff test positive.

Reporting a positive or void LFD test for secondary aged pupils

If your child does test positive when using the LFD test at home, or they have two void tests please use this [Online Form](#).

Reporting a positive PCR test result

If your child takes a PCR test and their result is positive, please use the [Positive PCR Test Result](#) to let us know.

Future Events

In my previous letter we were hoping that some of our events next half-term could be face to face, however considering recent developments regarding the rapid transmission of a new COVID19 variant we have decided to hold all our events virtually. I know how disappointing this may be for some of you, but I must always put the safety of our school community first.

EduLink One - New Parent Information and Communication System

Thank you to all those parents who have registered for EduLink One. The system will provide you with essential information about your child/ren and their lives at Astley Park School and will replace the Xpressions app. It will also be our system for booking Parents Evening appointments, accessing essential documents such as review paperwork and it will also enable you to update your contact information. The first class to have all parents and staff signed up was Willow – they all enjoyed a chocolate treat from me. If you have not yet signed up, please contact a member of the school business support team who will be happy to help.

Parents Evening

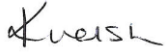
We have two evenings planned on 21 & 22 June 5pm – 7pm for you have the opportunity for a 20-minute meeting with your child's class teacher and teaching assistants. We will be using the EduLink One app, from 07 June you will be able to login and book your preferred time slot(s). The class teacher will then email out a MS Teams meeting invite. The EduLink One app will be a great time saver and be much more convenient for you. If you have any questions or queries, please let your child's class teacher know.



Thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy the half-term break.

Keep Safe 



Kieran Welsh
Headteacher



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