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Friday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

In what has been a tricky week, let's start with some great news!

I'm very pleased to let you all know Mr and Mrs Taylor welcomed their baby daughter on Tuesday. The family are all doing well and Mr Taylor is now enjoying his paternity leave – thankfully avoiding the sudden increase in COVID cases that we've experienced this week.

### COVID Update

To coincide with the relaxation of restrictions, we have had a sharp increase in COVID numbers this week. These have primarily been focused in two specific classes initially and then into Year R. This tallies with the national picture where the greatest increase is seen in the primary school-age bracket.

As I mentioned earlier this week, the newer cases of COVID do not seem to be displaying the 'typical' symptoms identified on the gov.uk website but rather the **children and adults testing positive are reporting sore throats and headaches** so please could I ask that parents are alert to these additional symptoms.

If you do have access to LFD tests (which I know is an issue in itself!), I would advocate regular testing of your children whilst we are in this 'spike' and I hope that things return to a more 'normal' level soon. If you have any cases, please report them either direct to me or via ParentMail (I can access this over the weekend).

Please continue to refer to the **COVID-19 Protocols** section of our school website which also includes a summary of the government guidance.

### White Rose Maths

Mrs Cork has asked me to highlight a new app from White Rose Maths (which we use in school) called 1-Minute Maths. I would recommend that all parents download this and get their children using this regularly.

#### How does it work?

1-Minute Maths offers children engaging and easily accessible practice in basic number. There's no specific route or starting point. Having chosen a topic, each user answers a series of randomly generated questions (a different set of questions every time means they learn the concept, not a sequence of answers).

When the one minute's up, the questions are automatically marked and presented on a breakdown screen, giving instant feedback on how they've done. If they're struggling with a question, a 'Hint' button reformats the question as a familiar manipulative display that mirrors the approaches used in the White Rose Maths schemes of learning.



## 7 Top Reasons for using 1-Minute Maths

1. Excellent practice – and no distractions.
2. A clear, intuitive process that children pick up straight away.
3. No login or internet access needed. Just download and play.
4. Enjoyable and motivating... How many can they get correct in one minute?
5. Helpful hints match those used in class.
6. Brilliant for building number fluency and confidence.
7. The mobile app is completely FREE!

### Parenting Support

I've been asked to highlight that our parents can access FREE online Solihull Parenting courses as KCHFT Health Visiting have purchased the online Solihull Parenting Programmes. The four courses include:

- Understanding pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby
- Understanding your baby aged 0-12 months
- Understanding your child aged 0-18 years
- Understanding your teenager's brain

The following link and password will allow families to gain access. Solihull will record the number of courses accessed and provide data to KCHFT.

Go to [www.inourplace.co.uk](http://www.inourplace.co.uk), apply the access code: Invicta and register for an account.

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### **Free 30 minute phone/video consultation with an Educational Psychologist for parents.**

[kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kepscommunitysupport@kent.gov.uk)

The aim of this service is to provide advice and guidance to parents and carers to support children's wellbeing and learning.

Topics or areas that you may wish to discuss might include:

- Social and emotional issues
- Concerns about learning
- Family relationships
- Concerns about behaviour
- Daily routines including sleep

If you would like to make use of this service please send a message to the email address above including the following information: a phone number; a convenient time to call (morning or afternoon); your child's education phase e.g. early years, primary school, secondary school; a brief description of what you wish to discuss.

**We will do our best to respond within 10 working days but this may be subject to availability.**

### Road Closure

We have received notice that Bifron's Hill will be closed on the first week back at school after half-term. There will be a diversion in place so traffic may be a little more congested than normal.

Thank you for your ongoing support, it is very much appreciated by all the staff.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Tibbles  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Events

All dates and events can be found on our school calendar.

[CALENDAR >](#)

You are also able to 'subscribe' to the calendar (there is a link underneath the calendar) which means that you can have the school calendar on your phone or tablet and any updates will automatically appear on your device!

<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b>	
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Infant Agility Competition
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	

<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Safer Internet Day
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Schools Health Team in school
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> LAST DAY OF TERM	

<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Year 4 Roman Drama Workshop
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	

<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Parental Consultations</i>
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b>	
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	Year 4 Roman Day
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	

## Celebration

### Star Pupils

Each Friday, we celebrate children who have impressed the adults in school either through their learning or demonstrating one of our Christian values.

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| ☆ <b>Safia F (1CS)</b> for her excellent reading in maths this week. <i>Mrs Cork</i>   | ☆ <b>Ella J (4JH)</b> for improving her reading scores and doing so well in dance. <i>Mr Harris</i>  |
| ☆ <b>Spyridon V (1LA)</b> for his excellent questioning in forest school this week when learning all about worms. <i>Miss Andrews</i>  | ☆ <b>Sienna W (4ST)</b> for effort and trying hard when working on her division number sentences this week. <i>Mrs Tomsett</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Bear C (2FP)</b> for excellent concentration and effort when working on his jumping skills in gymnastics. <i>Mrs Franks</i>   | ☆ <b>Edie W S (5HA)</b> for contributing thoughtful and insightful ideas in RE for 10 Lessons of Living. <i>Mrs Langsdon</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Aidan A (2FP)</b> for showing resilience and stamina towards his learning this week. <i>Mrs Munday</i>  | ☆ <b>Fenton A (5JS)</b> for always giving 100% in all that you do. You show fantastic determination and resilience which reflects in your learning and are always there, and willing, to support your friends. <i>Miss J Smith</i> |
| ☆ <b>Ollie S (2GD)</b> for the amazing confidence you have shown this week in English both in terms of your writing and when joining in with class discussions. <i>Mrs Dennett</i> | ☆ <b>Rudy M (6NA)</b> for a well-researched and detailed biography on Kyle Walker in English this week. <i>Mrs Sopp</i>  |
| ☆ <b>Lawley C (3JA)</b> for applying herself in all lessons this week and showing a positive attitude to her learning! <i>Mr Ablett</i>  | ☆ <b>Georgia K (6JP)</b> for always setting an impeccable example to her peers in every aspect of her school life. <i>Mr Perfect</i>   |
| ☆ <b>Tamsin K (3SA)</b> for excellent debating skills in geography, when exploring the different uses of rivers. <i>Mrs Hellyar</i>  |  |

## Buster Book Club

Well done to **1LA** and **2GD** who have won this week's Buster Book Club competition.

