



Newsletter – 17th January 2022

On this day - 1991: Operation Desert Storm begins in the Gulf War.

Birthdays - 1964: Michelle Obama, former First Lady of the US , born in DeYoung, Illinois.

Dear parents, carers and families,

Welcome to this first newsletter of 2022. The first days of this new term have already sped by and there are just four weeks until half term in mid-February. Thank you for the support you have already shown this term in our collective response to the Covid-19 pandemic. I know many of you will have been busy with Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing at home, in addition to supporting us at school drop-off and pick-up, and with collecting children from school when they are unwell.

Our classrooms have been alive with learning opportunities over the past week; staff continue to prepare and deliver lessons to children in school and those needing to isolate at home. It has been so positive to see the experiences for the children continue, even in the face of changes being made due to Covid-19 cases. From an administrative point of view, the management of Covid-19 cases has dominated the start of term. We are now looking to make our communication with you more effective and streamlined in the face of new isolation guidance from today. A letter will come to you later today. Please look out for this and share as widely as possible with those you know who might not check Parent Mail emails so regularly. The information will also be loaded onto our website. For the time being, I will leave attendance data out of this newsletter, although punctuality data will be included again from next week. Please continue your great efforts with timekeeping.

Last week, many of our 'normal' activities started again, including after school clubs with Premier Sport and Active Play Education. Hazel Class (Year 4) had their first swimming lesson at Parkside. I understand that the children represented the school excellently and enjoyed their lessons, which will continue throughout this half term. Well done everyone!

Our School Council met last term and discussed opportunities for children to have quieter spaces to use and play in at lunchtime. We are exploring this. In the meantime, if you have any games (board games, cards, Lego, etc.) in 'reasonable' condition that could be donated to school to support this provision, please let us know.

With best wishes for the week ahead,
Richard Martin.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 27th January : Zoo Lab visit to Pine Class / Reception – Parent financial contributions requested.

Friday 11th February: Last day of half term.

Monday 7th February: National Measurement Programme – Pine Class (Reception) and Oak Class (Year 6).

Monday 14th – Friday 18th February: Half term break.

Monday 21st February: Children return to school.

