



# Newsletter

Welcome back after the half term break.

This week is parents evening and we are hopeful that we will be able to invite you into school as year groups, and as we used to do pre-pandemic, very soon, to share some of the work we are doing. If you didn't manage to make an appointment for **Parents evening** your child's teacher will be in touch soon for a catch up.

We have been asked to publicise some information about spotting the **signs of diabetes** – please find attached. Thank you.

We have a packed week around **World Book Day** and look forward to *losing ourselves* in a great book or poem. It's not too late to book a World Book Day lunch:



And speaking of lunch ...

You may remember that from September 2021, we brought the **catering** in-house through the Trust.

We asked the children what they felt about the new menus – I have attached their honest and insightful feedback to my questionnaire...

Look out for details of the **Animal Feast** lunch we are planning for April - grr!

The children will be coming home today with a pamphlet with some game cards, to promote a local authority competition '**Beat the Street.**' This is a free, fun initiative that will see Stockton-on-Tees transformed into a giant game! You are challenged to see how far you can walk, cycle, run, scoot and roll in just 6 weeks. There are great challenges to enjoy and prizes up for grabs. The game will start on Wednesday 2nd March 2022 and end on Wednesday 13th April 2022. For a sneak preview log onto <https://www.beatthestreet.me/stockton-on-tees/> If your child 'misses' their cards please get in touch with us and we will send some home.

The recent 'red day' to mark Valentines raised £216 – Thank you for your support and Thanks to FoYPS for steering our fundraising so brilliantly – find out more with a FoYPS update:

# FoYPS

I want to update everyone on what the hard work of **FoYPS** and your support is meaning for our children in school.

This academic year to date through the fancy dress fundraiser, Halloween event, Christmas Fayre and Christmas cards, the group have raised over £3,000. A magnificent amount which makes a huge difference to what we can offer to enhance the curriculum for ALL our pupils.

We have already been able to give every child a reflector to support the safety work in school and over the coming weeks will be able to:

- Access resources to support early writing
- Initiate a programme to support the development of Speech, Language and communication
- Widen the range of art materials available
- Have use of remote amplifiers to allow us to develop the use of our outdoor areas as learning spaces
- Invest in some new reading materials
- Hold a whole school event around the Queen's jubilee
- Enhance the resources available to children through their year group lunchtime clubs

As you can see this is an impressive list and ensures that through the fund raising ALL children are benefitting.

I wish to thank the small team of highly motivated volunteers for their amazing creativity and hard work and would like to appeal to anyone who is able to join the group and make a difference too. Please let us know if you are able to join FoYPS as a team member – you will be very much welcomed.

**THANK YOU AGAIN** to the team and for everyone who is supporting their fantastic fundraising.

There is a lot more to come so come and join us!

Taken from the DfE update 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 – **Living with COVID-19 Plan:**

### **Changes to testing in education and childcare settings and children's social care services**

From today, Monday 21 February, the Government is removing the guidance for staff and students in most education and childcare settings to undertake twice-weekly asymptomatic testing.

Given we now know that the risks of severe illness from COVID-19 in most children and most fully vaccinated adults are very low, and our successful vaccination programme has achieved a high rate of take-up, we can remove this advice, bringing education into line with wider society.

### **Changes to self-isolation and daily testing of close contacts**

- From Thursday 24 February, the Government will remove the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for at least 5 full days, and then continue to follow the guidance until they have received 2 negative test results on consecutive days. In addition, the Government will:
- No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those aged under 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate.
- End self-isolation support payments, national funding for practical support and the medicine delivery service will no longer be available.
- End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests. Staff, children and young people should attend their education settings as usual. This includes staff who have been in close contact within their household, unless they are able to work from home.

- End the legal obligation for individuals to tell their employers when they are required to self-isolate.

**From Friday 1 April, the Government will:**

- Remove the current guidance on voluntary COVID-status certification in domestic settings and no longer recommend that certain venues use the NHS COVID Pass.
- Update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This will align with the changes to testing.
- No longer provide free to order universal symptomatic and asymptomatic testing for the general public in England.

**Consolidate guidance to the public and businesses, in line with public health advice.**

**Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on COVID-19 vaccination for healthy 5 to 11 year olds**

The NHS is currently offering vaccines to at-risk children and those who live with immunosuppressed people in this age group. Parents and guardians of at risk 5 to 11 year olds should wait for the NHS to contact them, with local NHS teams already contacting those who are eligible.

On Wednesday 16 February, the government accepted the advice from the independent JCVI to make a non-urgent offer of COVID-19 vaccines to all children aged 5 to 11 in England.

The JCVI advice follows a thorough review by the UK's independent medicines regulator, the MHRA, which approved Pfizer's paediatric vaccine, as safe and effective for children aged 5 to 11.

Children without underlying health conditions are at low risk of serious illness from COVID-19 and the priority remains for the NHS to offer vaccines and boosters to older age groups and vulnerable children, as well as to catch-up with other childhood immunisation programmes.

The NHS will prepare to extend this non-urgent offer to all children during April so parents can, if they want, take up the offer to increase protection against potential future waves of COVID-19, as we learn to live with this virus.

We will of course share any further relevant information we receive moving forward.

A quick reminder – it is within the Trust and Local Authority protocols around absence that we require evidence of **appointments within school time**, so please do not be surprised if we request sight of these. Thank you for your understanding and support in this matter.

As you may have seen our attempts to establish our **outdoor equipment** has been hindered by the weather! If you are able to offer your services for a day over a weekend – we have lots of manual jobs we could do with a hand with – we would be really grateful. If you let the office know we can put a plan together – It would be great if we could get things in place so that children can start enjoying them. Thank you.

A busy time ahead – we are looking into term 3 and what plans to be our busiest term yet! Look out for details of some parents' meetings about the **residential trips** which are to take place in the summer – we are already talking with the children about them – a clear mix of apprehension and excitement!

**Dates for the diary:**

- Easter break – school closes Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April and reopens 25<sup>th</sup> April  
(Includes bank holidays on Friday 15 April 2022 and Monday 18 April 2022)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Bank Holiday
- Summer half term- school closes Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May and reopens Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Includes bank holidays on Thursday 2 June 2022 (Spring BH) and Friday 3 June 2022 (Platinum Jubilee BH)
- PDDay – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022
- School closes for the summer - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Take care  
Mrs. Wood

February 2022