

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December - Week 13

Welcome to week 13 of autumn term. There is quite a lot of information this week.

### **Covid**

Thetford and Delamere have been off for a week now, school is not the same with two classes missing. Well done to all the children (and parents) for the homework being done. There are still quite a few we haven't heard from though so please encourage your child to log on to Purple Mash and/or the paper work. When they return, we will expect all children to have done some work. I know from experience that it can be difficult getting a child to work when they are at home but please encourage them not to see it as a holiday. Also, please be patient with the isolation period instructions. 14 days means 14 days. It is all too easy to think that the last few days don't really matter but this 14 day period is based on science. Infection could develop at any time during this period. Even a negative test result does not overrule this. Sorry.

Parents have asked about Christmas Cards. Public Health have no issues with children giving cards out as long as social distancing is observed. Each class will keep Christmas cards in a box in class (under 'quarantine') and give them all out at the end of term. Please don't send any cards in after Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> so that cards get chance to quarantine.

Mr Hewitt has now disinfected all classrooms with a special fogging machine so the classrooms should be quite safe when children return next week. Thanks to Victoria Road School for lending us the machine.

### **Non-Covid**

Christmas parties are arranged for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> in all classes. You will have seen a text to say we have moved Christmas Dinner to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> (thanks Susanne) and Woodside Christmas Jumper day is Friday 18<sup>th</sup>. With all this in mind, the last three days of term can be non-uniform for all. Please make sure children are dressed appropriately for school/winter. It would be nice if we could have a donation (of any size) for Jumper day on the Friday. Hopefully this will all make for a fun end to a challenging term!

It's lovely to welcome Mrs Scott back after her maternity leave. She will be resuming her role in Sherwood class after the holidays. She will be ensuring she gets to know the reception class in the next couple of weeks. Mrs Whitaker has done a great job in the meantime and will still be taking the class on Fridays.

We are still having issues regarding the school lunch forms. There is an option at the end of the form to repeat the choices for that week (Blue, Red or Green) until the menu changes. There are parents who are asking for the choices not to be repeated but then not completing the form by the 12pm deadline on a Friday despite having several reminders. Therefore we have taken the decision that if your child's form is not in by the deadline we will ask your child what they would like and this will then be repeated until the menu change. This is because it is taking up far too much of Joanne and Michelle's time chasing these up and filling them out each week, when the process was supposed to initially make it quicker for all. A big 'Thank You' to all who have been completing them before the deadline each week.

There has been some information this week about arrangements for tests next year. The main details are for primary assessments, key stage 1 tests in English reading and mathematics, and the SPAG test at key stage 1 and 2 will be removed for one year, in recognition of the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Schools can take a flexible approach to the administration of the key stage 2 tests and phonics screening check, by extending the original timetable by a week, until 26 May and 25 June, respectively.

Although primary performance data will not be published, teacher assessment in English reading, writing and mathematics at key stage 1, and all other assessments at key stage 2, will remain. These measures will help to understand pupils' lost time in education and support those that need it most, providing vital information to parents and assisting with pupils' transition to secondary schools.

There is a big focus on reading across Halton, for all people, not just children. To support this, we have started a little lending library in the front entrance. There is a selection of books for grown-ups, teens and children (but mainly grown-ups) that you are free to use. The idea is that you take a book and bring it back when you have finished. You don't need to sign anything, just help yourself. If you have any books that you no longer need then please feel free to donate them. Make sure they are in reasonable condition and suitable for a school...otherwise we could be in 50 Shades of trouble... 😊

Finally, a massive thank you for all the Thank Yous! We have really enjoyed reading all the lovely messages from parents and children and we will display them in school for all to see. There is still time to get them in if you haven't already, particularly for Delamere and Thetford. Here is a small selection.



Please do continue to check the website for updates. We post information and school-specific guides there.

<https://www.woodsideprimary.co.uk/>

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Thank you 😊