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Newsletter 27 – 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents

Holi Celebrations and Bollywood Dance Day



What a day of exuberant, joyful, colourful fun we had on Wednesday, when Kalpesh came to show us a bit more about the Hindu spring festival of colour, Holi! It was wonderful to watch the children immerse themselves in the moment, laughing and enjoying the permission to get very messy in the beautiful sunshine! The dance and music and the weather all conspired to create an atmosphere of real celebration. Thank you to all our families for supporting the children to participate so fully and to have such a glorious experience. Quite aside from the great learning about other cultures and faiths, the children were relaxed, happy and finding joy in the moment which was lovely to see.

Campout for Years 3 and 4 The children in years 3 and 4 missed out on their annual residential trip this year, because of Covid restrictions. Their class teachers were determined to find a way to give them an overnight experience, and have come up with this amazing plan to have a campout on the school field on the night of 16th to 17th of July. There will be fun activities, a barbecue, tents and a night away from home in our safe surroundings. We are very grateful to Mrs Goddard, Mrs Jones and Mrs Hayward who have committed so fully to ensuring the best possible experience for our children. For anyone who missed the Zoom parents' meeting this week, a follow-up letter and kit list will be sent out shortly.

It is a huge undertaking to have responsibility for children overnight and all of our teachers who take on this responsibility are working above and beyond the call of duty. We hope to run our two night residential trip for the children in Years 5 and 6 this May and we are very grateful to all the staff involved in that trip as well.

Drop Off and Pick Up at School We ask that all our families drop off and pick up at exactly their allocated times – increasingly families are arriving late and this means we are crossing Bubbles which is not allowed. As we battle the new variants of Covid, it is essential that we continue to be rigorous in obeying every part of the restrictions which will keep our community safe. We are especially concerned for our staff who should not be exposed to more people than absolutely necessary.

We have had a query about when we will change the staggered drop off and pick times back to something more "usual". At this stage, as mentioned above, we are still under the strict Covid restrictions and the Government has not given us leave to relax those yet. Understandably, they cannot make decisions until it is clear what is happening with infection rates, new variants and the vaccination programme so, for the time being and until further notice, we will continue with our protocols as they are. We really do not know for how much longer this will be.

Once we are allowed to lift these strict measures, we will replace the current arrangements with a less staggered protocol. We will have KS1 children dropped off ten minutes before KS2 children, (probably 8.30am for KS1 and 8.40am for KS2) and picked up ten minutes earlier at the end of the day as well (probably 2.50pm for KS1 and 3.00pm for KS2).

This will be a permanent arrangement for our school from then on, and we will also continue to have children dropped off and picked up at the gates as they are at present. We hope to alleviate some of the traffic problems that beset us before the lockdowns through these measures.

Lateral Flow Tests We encourage everyone to take a lateral flow test twice a week, and, if positive, to isolate immediately and to take a confirmatory PCR test as soon as possible. If we can detect all asymptomatic cases, we can help to keep cases of Covid low in our area.

Welcome to our new families We welcome our new families into our school community and wish them very well as they settle into their new homes and new school. Please do reach out in friendship to those who are new – it makes such a difference just to have someone stop and chat for a few minutes when you are new to a community.

Pyjamarama Day – Friday 14th May Wear your pyjamas to school! We are joining in with the Book Trust's Pyjamarama Day to have a fun day filled with bookish activities, and to raise some funds for children who have no access to books at the same time. More details to follow.

No After School Club on Monday 17th May Please remember that there is ***NO After School Club on Monday 17th May***, as we have whole staff First Aid Training on that day.

Bank Holiday Please remember that Monday 3rd May is a Bank Holiday.

If your child shows ANY SIGN of Covid infection, they must not come into school – this is really important! Any temperature, cough or change to sense of taste or smell requires a test and isolation. Keep your child at home if anyone in your house has Covid (10 day isolation), or Covid symptoms until a negative test has been returned.

Best wishes