



www.warmsworth.doncaster.sch.uk

Newsletter September 2021



Welcome Back!

It is so lovely to see everyone back and smiling! We are so impressed by how all children have settled into school, particularly our new starters in Foundation One and Foundation Two.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of you - parents, grandparents and child-minders - for your continued support to us as a school and maintaining the use of the one-way system for the start and end of the day. We will continue to monitor this, and as this is not a permanent, long-term solution, we are hoping to move to using the main entrance only for entry and exit before the winter draws in.

We have continued to follow government guidance and have continued to review our Covid-19 Risk Assessment and have written an Outbreak Management Plan (both of these are available on our website). This has meant that we have returned to a little more normality in school, as bubbles have been removed and many regulations have been relaxed. We have continually evaluated our practices to keep us all safe. This has meant that we have kept some of the new systems introduced, such as increased handwashing and hygiene, children coming into school in their PE kit on PE days (except FS2 who are changing at school to develop their physical skills as part of their Foundation Stage curriculum). However, we have been able to reintroduce children seated in groups, so they can learn more collaboratively and have started introducing some phase assemblies instead of class assemblies every day. Children are eating in the dinner halls instead of the classroom etc. and the children are loving spending time on the playgrounds with their friends. We are also excited to reintroduce our parent sessions this term; these are all being held outside until further notice, so please wear suitable clothing. We will continue to review our risk assessment and will provide any updates with update you via our School website www.warmsworth.doncaster.sch.uk and our School Jotter App when changes are made.

Covid-19 Symptoms

Although Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed nationally, we are aware that Covid-19 is still with us, with a report of an asymptomatic positive case being identified in

our school community this week, so please keep being vigilant. If your child has any of the main Covid-19 symptoms as listed by the NHS below, please do not bring them to school, ensure they self-isolate and seek a coronavirus PCR test for them:

- A high temperature - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- A new continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-Covid-19-19/symptoms/>

Please notify us of when your child is tested and of the results. Following a negative result, the child can return to school.

As the national isolation rules have changed, children under the age of 18 and those who are double vaccinated no longer not have to isolate if they are close contacts of a positive case, unless told to do so by Track and Trace; however, those who are older than 18 and not double vaccinated still do.

As a school this means that we are not ordinarily asked to close classes when there is a positive case of Covid-19, as we were last term. However, if we have 5 or more cases within a 10 day period, we would work with Public Health. They may then instruct us to revert back to bubbles and could instruct us to close a class and revert back to remote learning through our Google Classroom platform.

School Jotter App



If you are new to school or haven't already downloaded the School Jotter App, please do so as it is directly linked to our school website - this will make sure you have all the latest updates and information. The School Jotter App is available on both Apple and Android devices.

We are in the process of changing our website and app provider, in response to parent feedback - more news to follow shortly!

Staffing Update

This September we have welcomed several new members of staff to the team: Miss Walker-Ellis has taken up her posts as Foundation Stage Two teacher and Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Keane and Mrs Olley have joined the school support staff team. Mrs White was a previous member of our support staff and is now training to be a teacher in our school, and we know she is going to make a fabulous teacher!

Mrs Lister, who many of you may know as one of our year 6 teachers, has eagerly started in her new role as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for our Key Stage Two pupils and the curriculum, and the children in her class are particularly pleased to have the Assistant Headteacher as their class teacher.

Keeping in touch

We appreciate that some of you may not be able to speak to the class teachers at the start of the day. Should you need to speak to the class teacher, please contact school and they will ring you back as soon as possible. Should you need to speak to anyone further, please contact Mrs Sharp (Foundation Stage One and Two) or Miss Nithsdale (Key Stage One) and Mrs Lister (Key Stage Two). Please note that the school office is only open from 8.30am and 4.30pm (4pm on a Friday), and we are unable to take calls outside of these hours, but you may leave a message on the answering machine at any time.

We are planning to have our parent meetings before half term; we are awaiting further guidance, and we will make a decision nearer the time as to whether these meetings will be held in school or via Microsoft Teams or a telephone call. More information will follow.

As usual, there will be quite a few letters coming home during the first couple of weeks; you will soon be receiving your child's emergency contact form to complete or check - these letters will be handed directly to your child and may be found in their book bags or school bags. Please make sure the emergency contact is completed and returned to school, as soon as possible.

Safeguarding guidance recommends that schools hold up to **3 emergency phone numbers for different adults**. The guidance also recommends that schools should take immediate action when contact cannot be made with a parent on the first day of a child's absence, so please help us by phoning in as soon as possible to inform us of your child's absence.

Please also add an email address to the contact form if we do not currently have one. We are planning on going paperless, wherever possible, in the near future!

School Improvement Priorities

School priorities are determined with regard to the following: outcomes of the school's rigorous self-evaluation systems, government/LA initiatives, data analysis, consulting

with children and parents, both formally and informally and embedding successful school initiatives which warrant further development.

Our key priorities identified for improvement over this coming school year are:

Quality of Education

- To ensure the progress of all pupils is maximised to address any remaining gaps in learning including those in vulnerable groups.
- To further develop oracy in pupils to support their future learning.
- To ensure that children access learning that is based on metacognition principles and are able to use metacognition strategies in order to ensure sustained progress.

Personal Development

- To ensure every child has the skills and knowledge to maintain a positive physical and mental health and emotional well-being including good oral hygiene.

Leadership and Management

- To further develop the curriculum to ensure that sequences are logical; promote continuous challenge and depth; and lead to high pupil outcomes
- To further develop teaching sequences to ensure that all pupils with a particular focus on higher attaining pupils are deepening their understanding throughout the sequence, particularly in reading.
- To maintain the high quality of teaching and learning to maximise pupil outcomes.

Early Years Education

- To ensure all pupils across the foundation stage make good or better progress.
- To further promote and develop pupil's physical development through the FS outdoor provision.

Healthy Learning Healthy Lives

We have been asked by several parents whether they can bring in sweet treats for the class when it is their child's birthday. In line with our Healthy Learning, Healthy Lives accreditation, we have made the decision that parents and their children can hand out these gifts at the end of the school day, rather than school staff in the school day. We know how much we all like birthdays and still wanted this to be an option, now that Covid-19 restrictions have been eased.

School Council Elections

Elections are currently taking place for our school councils: Sports Council, Enterprise Council, Eco Council, Reading Ambassadors and Smile Ambassadors. I will share the names of those who are successfully elected in my next newsletter.

Uniform

Thank you for sending the children back to school in the correct uniform - especially **black** footwear; they all look so smart. Children may come to school wearing a watch and one pair of stud earrings (although these must not be worn on PE days) but must not wear make-up, nail varnish or other jewellery items.

Attendance & Punctuality

This year we are continuing to aim for our target of 97%. We have been delighted with the level of attendance so far - in the first week our attendance was 98%, which is fantastic - well done!

Please read the attached letter - regarding unauthorised leave and irregular attendance at school. Headteachers cannot grant leave of absence during term-time, unless there are exceptional circumstances, which are listed on the absence from school letter. **Please note being self-employed is not regarded as 'exceptional circumstances'.**

Please do not be offended if you receive a letter regarding your child's attendance if it falls below **95%**. We are required by the Local Authority to notify parents if this happens - for any reason. If, following the first letter, there are any further unauthorised absences in the following 15 days the school may request Doncaster Council to issue a fine.

If your child is absent for **10%** or more of school sessions, they are defined by the government as a '**Persistent Absentee**' and information regarding your child's attendance is reported to the Local Education Authority and Department for Education. The school office will also request sight of appointment cards for medical or dental appointments in order to authorise any absence in the school day. Also, please note that **children in all year groups are assessed during May/June** and therefore any absences should be avoided during this month. In addition to the end of Key Stage assessments (Years 2 & 6), there is a compulsory phonics assessment for every child in **Year 1** and a multiplication tables test for every child in **Year 4** which will both take place during **June 2022**.

Payments to School

Payments to school for dinner money, trips and extended school clubs will continue to be paid using the Parent Pay website, or at a pay point. If you have not set up an

account with Parent Pay, or have lost your login details, please speak to staff in the school office. Login details for new children in F2 will be issued by the office within the next few days.

Lost Property

Please remember to label your child's clothing and other belongings, particularly water bottles and lunch boxes. This is more important than ever when we are trying to minimise the spreading of infection. Due to the amount of unclaimed belongings we have to store (and eventually dispose of), all lost property is kept for one week only.

Parking

We understand that parking is limited due to the school being situated on a very busy main road, but the safety of all is our primary concern. Please show consideration when parking and refrain from parking across residents' driveways or on the grass verges on Mill Lane.

We are really looking forward to a wonderful autumn term - thank you for all your continued support!

Mrs Train
Headteacher

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Good attendance at school is the single most important factor in ensuring that your child will maximise their learning opportunities. By attending school every day your child takes an important step in reaching their full potential. Research completed by the Department for Education found that every day missed was associated with a lower attainment outcome at both KS2 and KS4. The more time your child spends around other children, the more chance they have of making friends and feeling included, boosting their social skills, confidence and self-esteem. Promoting positive school attendance is therefore everyone's responsibility.

You may be aware that school absence in Doncaster is one of the highest in England and schools have been working with Doncaster Council to look at how we can ensure all children attend school as much as possible. The school wants your child to have the education and skills they need to live a happy and fulfilling life. With this in mind Doncaster Council has made two major changes in how it will respond to requests from schools when schools are considering enforcing poor attendance.

Unauthorised Leave (Holidays in term time)

You will be aware that no leave of absence from school for a holiday in term time can be taken without the authorisation of the Headteacher and should you take your child out of school for a holiday you may be issued with a Penalty Notice. Doncaster Council will continue to issue Education Penalty Notices to each parent for each child they take out of school for a holiday.

Irregular Attendance at School

The school may write to you to advise there are concerns with your child's irregular attendance at school. It is very important that you work closely with the school to ensure your child is able to attend school every day wherever possible. If your child's attendance is not at the expected level the school will offer support to you and your child to ensure an improvement in attendance is made. However, should the support not have the required improvement in attendance we may send you a penalty notice warning letter. If there are any further unauthorised absences in the following 15 school days the school may request Doncaster Council to issue you with an Education Penalty Notice.

The penalty notice is a fine of £120 but reduced to £60 if you pay it within 21 days. Doncaster Council will decide if a penalty notices can be issued but may decide to prosecute you instead. Where Doncaster Council decide a prosecution should take place, they will write to you offering you to attend a meeting with an Enforcement Court Officer. Following this meeting the Enforcement Court Officer will decide if a prosecution will take place and a summons will be requested from Doncaster Magistrates Court.

If you are experiencing any difficulty with your child's attendance, please contact us immediately so we can work together to ensure improvements are made.

Yours faithfully

Mrs R Train
Headteacher

