



# NEWSLETTER

**18/9/20**

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## **SCHOOL SO FAR**

We feel that the first two weeks of term have been very successful. Children have adapted to new routines quickly, re-established friendships and some have even been heard to enthusiastically ask when they are next doing English! Little by little, things are returning to normal with ongoing tweaks to our routines.

On Tuesday this week the school celebrated National Teaching Assistant Day. It gave the teachers and children a chance to say a big 'thank-you' for all the hard work that Miss Giovannini, Mrs Haughan, Mrs Kwiatkowska, Mr Hall, Miss Brecken and Mr Warwick do. The hall door in school is decorated with messages of thanks as a reminder.

## **COVID 19 SYMPTOMS AND SUSPECTED CASES**

As is normal, with schools returning we have seen a surge in the prevalence of common colds. This has and will make decisions hard about whether to send your child to school or keep them off and even harder decisions as to whether to get your child tested.

The NHS provides a more detailed definition for each of the three COVID-19 symptoms, which may be helpful:

- a high temperature – measured as 37.8°C or above. If you don't have a thermometer, feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back is a good indicator of a high 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

For asthmatic children, it would be any cough different/worse to what is recognised as 'expected' or 'normal' in a child's asthma treatment plan.

If we have any suspected cases in school, I will issue a letter to the bubble that may be affected. This shouldn't cause unnecessary alarm to families, but is so we can be open and transparent and perhaps mitigate misinformation that can sometimes be shared via social media. It will then be followed up with a text/letter stating whether the test was negative/positive. It is very important though that parents do let the school know if their child is going to be tested.

## **SCHOOL PHOTOS**

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the school photographer will be visiting school. She will take individual pictures of all pupils and those of siblings too. Unfortunately, photos of families and children not at Cummersdale will not be taken this time.

## **ABSENCE AND HOLIDAYS**

May I remind parents that if families require time off school for holidays, they should write and ask for permission. I will respond stating whether the request is authorised or unauthorised.

If your child is absent from school, you must also let the school know. At the moment, too much administration time is being taken sending texts and follow up phonecalls, sometimes to several contact numbers, when a courteous call to school would have been all that was necessary.

## **READING**

The children will have brought home a 'How to help your child Read' booklet. This is aimed at helping parents get the most out of listening to their child read, right from the early stages in Reception to higher up in Key Stage 2. We hope that you find it useful.

## **WATER**

The teachers have noticed that a number of children have started to bring in juice in their water bottles rather than water. Please do not supply juice, flavoured water or anything else apart from water. Children may bring a separate bottle of juice for their packed lunch. The teachers will ensure that children are kept hydrated and they can refill their bottles with water in school if necessary.

## **FANTASY FOOTBALL**

Seventeen teams joined the Cummersdale Premier League on Week1. Mrs Wakefield and her Wakefield Wanderers lead the way with Hend o the Wait (Mr Dave Rankine) and Ole Solskjstars (Mr Lee Ormerod) in hot pursuit. Another six teams will join at week 2 this weekend. It is not too late for other teams to join whether this be for a pupil or a parent. To join the league, set up a team on [www.fantasypremierleague.com](http://www.fantasypremierleague.com) and go to 'Join Leagues' and enter the code 'acky24'.

## **DINNERS**

The first two weeks of dinners with a slightly different system and a new cook have gone well. Many children have been giving dinners a try and have been pleasantly surprised by what we have on offer. Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are all entitled to a free meal, so it is a little surprising that a number of families are not taking advantage of this. Vicky, the new cook, is more than happy to discuss any dietary requirements or unusual tastes with parents. A new dinner menu for the weeks up until half term is included to be returned by Monday please.

## **FLU IMMUNISATION**

A letter has been sent home to all parents about the flu jab. Whilst this doesn't take place until December, please return this as soon as possible.

## **PARKING**

With our 'soft' start and end to the school day, it means that rather than traffic all coming in at the same time and out at the same time, there is much more crossing of paths. There are also more parents and children having to walk between the front and the back of school. Do take extra care when driving into the car park. There's usually plenty of room – just don't rush in.

## **PUPIL OF THE WEEK**

This week's **Pupil of the Week** is **Blake Ulyart (Y1)** for really trying hard with his work and writing lots about Bob the astronaut. The winner of this week's **Mrs Vickers Kindness Cup** is **Ella Heffernan (Y5)** for starting Y5 really well and really impressing her teachers with a super attitude to her work.

## **MATHS WHIZZ**

This week's winners are **Wills Evans (Y1)** and **Aydenn Shanks (Y2)** for their usage.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

This section is usually busy with sports fixtures, trips out and visitors. However, at the moment, there is little planned. We are trying to vary what we do in school by looking for opportunities to do different things; International Dot Day was celebrated this week and gave our creative children the opportunity to show what they can do. The staff and I are looking for similar opportunities to see us through this term.

|          |                         |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 22/9/20  | Governors meeting       |
| 2/10/20  | School Photos (Tempest) |
| 23/10/20 | Finish for Half Term    |
| 2/11/20  | New Half Term begins    |
| 7/12/20  | Flu Immunisation        |
| 18/12/20 | End of Term (1.15pm)    |

*More dates will be added throughout the term*