



Diary Dates

Slowly but surely we are able to add some events and key dates in the school calendar.

Some educational visit providers are now beginning to offer visits which adhere to current guidance and we are in the process of organising several visits. We will update you as soon as arrangements are finalised.

Monday 14 December

Christingle making in classes



Tuesday 15 December

Carol singing and Christingle Service

Wednesday 16 December

Key Stage 1 Christmas movie

Thursday 17 December

Key Stage 2 Christmas movie

Class Christmas parties

Close for Christmas holidays 3pm

Monday 4 January 2021

School re-opens for Spring term

Tuesday 5 January

Dr Bike workshop for Years 5 and 6

Wednesday 6 January

Year 6 Bikeability

Thursday 7 January

Year 5 Bikeability



Christmas Parties and Movie Day

We are asking parents for a £2 donation per child for the provision of snack and refreshments during the Christmas movie and class parties.

To enable staff to finalise their class budget and purchase the items, could we ask that all donations are in by **Monday 14 December**.



Bikeability

After the success of the Year 3, 4 and 5 Ready Steady Pedal sessions we are pleased to be able to offer Year 5 and 6 Bikeability training in the New Year.

Dates are above, and further information will be sent out next week.

On Wednesday 5 January pupils in Year 5 and 6 will be able to bring their bikes to a 'Dr Bike' maintenance workshop.



Nell Bank

Years 2 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Nell Bank last week and the staff there were more than impressed with how polite, well-behaved and interested the children were.



We are currently in the process of arranging for more year groups to visit the venue and more details will follow.

Healthy Snacks

Children in Early Years and Key Stage One are provided with a piece of fruit each day as part of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. Children in Key Stage 2 are welcome to bring a piece of fruit or a healthy cereal bar (not containing nuts or chocolate) to eat as a playtime snack.



Headteacher's Message



Dear parents and carers,

My fortnightly message in the newsletter usually serves as a way of communicating information and updating you on what we are doing in school. I am intentionally writing my message today from a more personal perspective.

In light of recent bubble closures and subsequent conversations with several parents I am acutely aware that some of you are feeling frustrated, anxious and often confused by the current situation we are in. I want to let you know that I understand—we're feeling it too. As I've said before, these are very uncertain and challenging times. A year ago, none of us could ever have imagined that 2020 would bring such sadness, worry, constraint and change. Any member of staff will tell you that my 'happy place' is being in classrooms amongst the children; seeing what they're up to and watching them learn. Being mostly confined to my office, doing my very best to navigate school through a pandemic, is definitely not what I signed up for.

In school, we are continuously doing everything possible to make sure we adhere to all guidelines and risk assessments, whilst at the same time making school as enjoyable and engaging an experience as possible. Your children are doing exceptionally well in school and have settled back into school life better than we could ever have expected, but we all cannot wait for the day we are able to return to our 'normal'. We know that the children miss playing with friends in other year groups and sitting wherever they like in the dining hall. They want to be able to play football again and to hug their friends. We want that for them, too. Those days are almost within touching distance and we have to keep looking forward.

Believe me, the *last* thing we want is for your children to be missing school. My heart sinks every time I am informed of a positive case; not only out of concern for the health and wellbeing of the affected children or staff, but also because of the impact this has on others within school. My own daughter's bubble closed a couple of weeks ago and I know the difficulties of arranging childcare at such short notice, particularly when friends and family are unable to help due to restrictions. I was impressed with how well she responded; working independently and accessing remote learning without much fuss, but she was so excited when her two weeks of self-isolation ended—and rightly so.

I need to reassure you that any decisions made are *always* in accordance with government guidance. Unfortunately, you (or I) may not always find the actions we must take convenient, logical or straightforward. The alternative, however, would be to be negligent, irresponsible and create unnecessary risk for your children and the staff here, not to mention the wider community. I take my responsibility as Headteacher of this school very seriously and I simply will not take that risk.

As always, your support is hugely appreciated. Thank you for every single one of your positive comments; they really do keep us going. We look forward to welcoming Year 1 back on Monday and also the small number of Year 4 pupils who were self-isolating will return on Tuesday.

Enjoy your weekend, and we look forward to next week's celebrations in school.

Attendance

Attendance figures for the last 3 weeks are as follows:

w/c 23 November 2020		w/c 30 November 2020		w/c 7 December 2020	
Reception	95.37%	Reception	93.36%	Reception	n/a
Year 1	95.56%	Year 1	80.43%	Year 1	n/a
Year 2	98.48%	Year 2	92.86%	Year 2	93.91%
Year 3	95.82%	Year 3	94.86%	Year 3	96.1%
Year 4	88.75%	Year 4	90.32%	Year 4	82.66%
Year 5	97.98%	Year 5	96.24%	Year 5	97.62%
Year 6	99.64% 	Year 6	94.48%	Year 6	91.32%

Christmas Festivities

As I said in the previous newsletter, we have been working on ways in which we can still make Christmas a special time for our pupils and we have lots of ideas and plans up our sleeves! Next week we have activities planned each day to ensure children (and staff!) feel festive and excited.

To the parents of children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1; please reassure your children that Christmas dinner has only been postponed, not cancelled! Mrs Moyles is busy making plans for those children to enjoy a belated Christmas dinner early next year, but as I'm sure you'll understand we cannot finalise plans until the end of term. Knowing the staff in these year groups too, I can only imagine what else they have in store!

We will also finalise arrangements next week for all Early Years families to receive the Christmas DVD.

Christmas Donations and Hampers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of individuals, charities and local businesses for their exceptional generosity this year and I hope you know how much your contributions to our school community are appreciated:

Thanks to McNally EV, every single pupil will take home a chocolate selection box next week.

Thanks to Friends of Worth Valley, every pupil will also take home a small gift to unwrap on Christmas Day (if they can wait that long!)

Thanks to the Greggs foundation and a generous donation from Rhi Turner, we have been able to create 10 festive hampers which we will raffle off next week.

And finally, thanks to the Sue Belcher Centre and The Parishes of Keighley and St John's Ingrow, we are able to provide a substantial number of families with food and supermarket vouchers to help ease financial worry over the Christmas period. If your family would benefit

from this support please email Mrs Barnes in confidence at t.barnes@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or myself at c.lodge@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk or alternatively, phone 01535 604240 to speak to us directly.



Letter to parents and guardians: when you should book a coronavirus test for your child

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible. One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, students, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with COVID-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested. Therefore, we ask that you all follow these principles:

You should only book a test if your child has any of these 3 coronavirus symptoms:

1. a high temperature: any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
2. a new continuous cough: coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
3. a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste: a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal

Your child does not need a test if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus. If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly.

1. only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the 3 symptoms listed above. **All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.**

2. if the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms
3. if a pupil or student in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school or college. Schools and colleges have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

It is vital for children and young people's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.