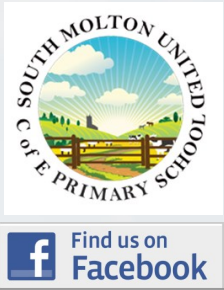


SMUPS News

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Friday 7th January 2022

Hello from the Head!

Happy new year to all our families. We hope that you were able to enjoy a restful Christmas and new year. It has been lovely to welcome the children back at the start of the term and they have come back with a positive attitude and are enjoying getting stuck into their new topics and learning.

There are some changes to self isolation guidance and coronavirus testing, which are detailed later in the newsletter so please do read this. Schools are operating in the same way that they were in the autumn term and it seems extremely unlikely that there will be any further periods of lockdown or greater restrictions. However, it is clear that absences amongst pupils and staff may be high at times due to self isolation and this may impact on the running of the school for a short period of time. We will endeavour to communicate as quickly as possible any changes.

Our new catering arrangements have begun this week and the feedback from the children and staff has been extremely positive about the new school meals. The quality of the ingredients has been significantly better and we are very much looking forward to implementing further plans to improve our catering over the coming terms. If your child is normally a packed lunch, please do encourage them to try some of the new school meals.

Congratulations to Mr Paddon and his wife on the birth of their second daughter before Christmas. Mr Paddon is due to return from his paternity leave on Monday.

Thank you to the PTF for their support with the Christmas Fayre, which raised almost £700. This money will be used to help fund extra curricular activities for the children.

Collective Worship

Our new theme for this half term is Trust. This week, on Tuesday, we looked at Epiphany and the significance of this day for Christians.

Things to Remember

- Year 2 resume their swimming lessons next week. Year 2 will continue to have their lessons on a Tuesday afternoon. Year 3 started today and will continue to have their lessons on a Friday afternoon.
- With the colder and more unpredictable weather, please make sure your child has their coat each day.
- Only children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 with a sibling in KS1 should be coming in to school before 8:45am.

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Certificates of the week!



Acorns:

Oak:

Ash:

Pine:

Beech:

Apple:

Willow:

Elm:

Holly:



Well done to all our certificate winners this week.

Reading at Home

As we start a new year, please do prioritise your child reading at home as part of your daily routine. It is the single most important thing that you can do to support your child's learning and children who read widely and enjoy reading make stronger progress across a wide range of subjects at school.

Please read to and with your child and talk about what they have read. As a guide, we would expect children to read for:

Reception: 5-10 minutes reading to an adult per day and 10-15 minutes listening to a story

Year 1 and 2: 10-15 minutes reading to an adult and 10 minutes listening to a story

Year 3 and 4: 15-20 minutes reading to an adult and 10 minutes listening to a story

Year 5 and 6: 20-30 minutes reading to an adult (or independently)

This is just a guide, but the most important thing is to establish really good habits and routines with reading so that your child is practising their reading each day and reading for enjoyment.

Covid-19 Latest Guidance

In school, we will be continuing with measures to reduce the potential spread of Covid-19. These include staff undertaking twice weekly lateral flow testing, increased ventilation around the building and in classrooms, increased hand washing and cleaning during the school day and reduced contact between classes during the school day. We will keep these measures under review and take additional steps if necessary or in response to any outbreaks.

The guidance around self isolation has changed.

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart.

This also applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

If a child is off school because of a positive covid test, but is feeling well with no symptoms, we will set work for them to complete while at home. However, if they are poorly, then we won't set work for them as they should focus on getting better.

If you are unsure or have any questions regarding this guidance, please do not hesitate to contact.