

SMUPS News

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Friday 14th January

Hello from the Head!

The new term is well and truly in full swing and the children are really getting stuck into their new topics.

It has been great to have the dry and sunny weather over the last few days.

Children in **year one** have been starting their geography topic on "Why can't Penguins fly?" and they will be looking at Antarctica and different places around the world. Children in **year four** have been looking at "Who were the Anglo-Saxons?" and being historians to find out why the Romans left Britain in the 5th Century. Children in **year 5 and 6** have begun their geography topics on Mountains and Rivers and will be learning about these landforms.

Year 2 have begun their geography topic on "How does the weather affect our lives?" and will be learning about different weathers and climates and how it affects humans. **Year 3** are learning about the "Stone Age" in their history lessons.

Please do talk to your children about their topic learning as they have a wealth of knowledge and it is great for them to find out more.

Next Friday, the **Panto** is coming to SMUPS. We have a visit from M+M Theatre to perform their latest pantomime to groups of children across the day.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the dry weather.

Collective Worship

This week **Oak Class (Year 1)** shared their virtual collective worship where they played some trust games and told us all about their understanding of **trust**. Well done Oak on a great Collective Worship.

Things to Remember

- The disabled bays in the school car park are reserved for those who hold a blue badge AND are also on their own to pick up their child/ren
- 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.
- Thank you to those parents for keeping up to date with **School Gateway** payments in advance of clubs and dinners. This really helps with the smooth running of the school. If you are struggling to keep on top of payments owed, please contact the office so we can arrange a suitable payment plan.

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Certificates of the week!

Acorns: Zander and Nehir

Oak: Jo and Leilani

Ash: Oliver and Sophia

Pine: Sophie W and Daisy

Beech: William

Apple: Blake

Willow: Joe

Elm: Noah and Hope

Holly: Harry and Harry

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 again this week.

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 this week to 5 full days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 5 and day 6 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 6.

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.