Ardeley St Lawrence C of E Primary School

**Newsletter**

1 April 2022

Dear Parents,

**Good news…**

Well, what difference a week makes with the weather! Sadly this cold snap did mean that the LKS2 rugby festival had to be rescheduled until after Easter.

We had lots of merit certificates to give out today. Well done to these children for earning these certificates for their hard work and fantastic attitudes:

**ORANGE:** Alice

**GREEN:** Indie, Mason, Chloe, Harry, Harper, Charlotte, Rogue, Gabriel, Olivia, Jack S, Seffie, Amelia and Ewan

**BLUE:** Rocco, Bradley, Isaac

**EYFS Star of the week:** Thea

**Lunchtime Stars:** Amelia and Isla

**Covid UPDATE…**

I am pleased to say that all the staff have been back this week, and are feeling much better.

Government guidance remains, even after today, that if someone knows that they have Covid then, out of consideration to others - as would be the case if they had flu, norovirus or any other unpleasant infectious disease - they **should stay at home**.   
The government recommendation is to avoid contact with other people for at least **5 full days** and then return to school once they feel better. The government particularly advises this for **anyone with a temperature or cough**.

Please continue to follow this guidance so we can look after everyone in our community.

General guidance around sickness and illness remains the same regardless of the illness, if a child or young person is unwell, they should not be attending nursery, school or college.

Similarly if we think that a child is unwell and needs to go home, we will continue to ask you in the same way.

**You have been fantastically supportive throught this pandemic and I thank you again for all the efforts you have made to keep our school community safe.**

The information below is from Hertfordshire County Council Health Teams, which we have been asked to share with you:

As we step into spring, we’re encouraging residents to be kind and stay healthy by following simple steps to live life safely with COVID-19, stop the spread and protect others. For up-to-date information go to <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/covidliving>

The simple steps people are encouraged to follow are:

o        Be kind – respect people wearing masks or keeping their distance from you. They may well be very vulnerable to infection

o        Be informed – know your level of risk and get good, trusted advice on managing it

o        Be vaccinated or boosted – ensure you and those around you are vaccinated when invited

o        Be safe – manage your risk when socially mixing (hands, face, space, fresh air)

o        Be prepared – if you get Covid, stay at home and get early treatment should you need it

o        Be supported – as well as your family and friends, HertsHelp can offer support

**COVID-19 vaccination**

Vaccination continues to offer the best protection for ourselves and others around us from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19. There are lots of walk-in options available locally for first, second doses and boosters, you can find your nearest vaccination centre and also book an appointment at: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

The national booking system for healthy 5- to -11 year olds to receive their COVID-19 vaccination will open from 2 April. Parents and carers can book appointments at larger vaccination centres and in some community pharmacies. Appointments will also be available at some GP run sites, if so they will contact you directly and you can book through your practice.

Vaccinations are already available for clinically vulnerable 5- to 11-year-olds, and children in this age group who live with someone who has a weakened immune system. Until now vaccinations for this ‘at risk’ group of children have been available through GPs and special schools, but parents and carers will also be able to book through these through the national booking service from 2 April.

For more information on vaccinations for this age group visit: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

**Stay at home if you have symptoms**

Guidance remains that if you have symptoms of COVID-19, **(a high temperature, a new, continuous cough or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste)**, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, regardless of a positive test result. [Get advice about staying at home and avoiding contact with others](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/)

There is support available locally to help people who need to self-isolate, call HertsHelp on 0300 123 4044, email [info@hertshelp.net](mailto:info@hertshelp.net) or visit [www.hertshelp.net](http://www.hertshelp.net/)

**Please don’t send children and young people back to school following the Easter holidays if they have any symptoms or feel unwell. There continues to be a high number of outbreaks across Hertfordshire’s childcare and education settings – they need our support to help protect our communities and have the least disruption to children’s learning and development as possible.**

We’d like to once again say thank you for continuing to play your part and for helping to keep yourselves and others safe. We hope you enjoy a great Easter break.

**Hertfordshire County Council**

**Events…**

The Mothers’ Day tea Party raised a fantastic £144 for the FAS. Our thanks particularly to Mrs Tilby-Baker and Mrs Muncer who donated many items for the event and to those who baked the cakes.

Today we have our FAS bake sale, I am sure all the cakes will be gone by the time I close those gates!

Y 5/6 are having an exciting STEM trip on the first Friday back.

KS1 have “scootability” a few weeks into the new term – look out for more information after Easter!

**Other information…**

In EYFS & KS1 we have recently changed our phonics system to Essential Letters and Sounds, in conjunction with Oxford University Press. The children are very much enjoying the sessions. We will be sending home more information, including some new books, after Easter.

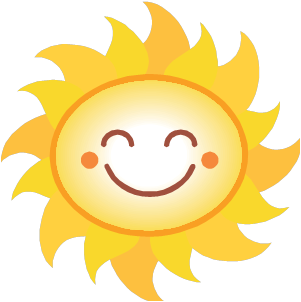
Today we have moved over, as a school, to a new data system. The old system was called SIMS and the new system is called Arbor. The data we store has not changed and is the essential data we need for school processes; names, addresses, contacts etc. At this time you will not notice any difference. However in May we hope to launch the ‘parent side’ of Arbor. This will replace Wisepay and will hopefully be a much easier system, bringing all of our communications and information together in one place.

**Rota & curriculum…**

The next two weeks are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week B** – 19TH – 22ND April | | | |
| Tuesday – **FOREST SCHOOL** – OLDER CLOTHES | | Thursday – PE - COME IN PE KIT | |
| UKS2 (1hr) | LKS2 | KS1 | EYFS |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week A** – 25th – 29th April | | | |
| Tuesday – MUSIC – NORMAL UNIFORM | | Thursday – PE – COME IN PE KIT | |
| UKS2 (1 hr) | KS1 | LKS2 | UKS2 |



If the sunshine carries on, please ensure your child has a water bottle, a hat and sun cream applied if necessary! (I fully realise I caused the snow this week by writing this in last week’s newsletter!!)

**Finally…**

As we finish this term I will share with you the message I have received from Canon David Morton

,Director of Education at the Diocese of St Albans:

Psalm 8 says:

*When I consider your heavens,*

*the work of your fingers,*

*the moon and the stars,*

*which you have set in place,*

*what is mankind that you are mindful of them,*

*human beings that you care for them?*

*You have made them a little lower than the angels*

*and crowned them with glory and honour.*

*You made them rulers over the works of your hands;*

*you put everything under their feet:*

*all flocks and herds,*

*and the animals of the wild,*

*the birds in the sky,*

*and the fish in the sea,*

*all that swim the paths of the seas.*

The writer, through observing the whole of creation, exclaims in wonder as they recognise that although humanity could be seen to be insignificant when compared to the universe in all its glory, God does not choose to see it that way.

Whether you find beauty in the fine detail or the big picture, I hope you find time this Easter to reflect on its bigger meaning. That you are cherished and loved by a God who revels in the fine detail, in wide expansive landscapes, in your wildest dreams and your current reality.

As we reach the end of a long, and at times tricky, Spring Term I would like to thank you all for your support. The children, parents and staff have been wonderful, as always, this term and I truly appreciate your support.

With kind regards

Mrs Connolly

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**Summer Term Dates**

**Tuesday** 19 April Return to School

Bank Holiday Monday 2 May

Last day of half term Thursday 26 May

Extra Platinum Bank holiday day (in lieu) school closed. Friday 27 May

Return to school Monday 6 June

End of Summer Term Wednesday 20 July 2.30pm

**The Term Dates for next year are now on the website.**