"Do everything you possibly can for those who need help." Proverbs 3:27
This week we have been talking about Fair Trade. Can your child explain why this idea is something that Christians around the world look to support?

25th February 2022

New Term – Another New Normal!

The start of Term 4 brings a very different approach to the way we are being asked to live alongside Covid-19. The Prime Minister's announcement on Monday, setting out his plan to end the legal requirement to self-isolate if you have Covid and the eventual withdrawal of free Lateral Flow Test kits, means that we are now moving to a situation where personal responsibility, rather than a legal mandate, will inform how we behave.

For schools, the situation is precarious. Without free tests, it will be much harder to expect parents to check for Covid regularly. Close contacts of positive cases will no longer be asked to undertake daily tests as a precaution. This seems certain to increase the number of undetected cases that arise in school. Thankfully, our children are highly unlikely to become seriously unwell, but as we saw at the end of last term, the impact on staffing can be severe.

With that in mind, I would like to ask parents to continue to react to Covid-19 in the same careful manner as has been the case before now. The guidance published yesterday is as follows:

- If you have any Covid-19 symptoms you should order a PCR test. You are advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people while you are waiting for the test result.
- If you have COVID-19 you can infect other people from 2 days before your symptoms start, and for up to 10 days after. You can pass on the infection to others, even if you have mild symptoms or no symptoms at all. If you have COVID-19 you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people.
- Children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take an LFD test from 5 days after their symptoms started (or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms) followed by another one the next day. If both these tests results are negative, they should return to their educational setting if they normally attend one, as long as they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature. They should follow the guidance for their educational setting.

This means that, while the legal duty to self-isolate has been removed, our approach in school has not changed. It remains very important that children with symptoms are tested as this is best way to ensure onward transmission is reduced.

We will continue to inform parents of new confirmed Covid-19 cases in each class.

As the rules change, we will rely on parents taking a responsible and considerate attitude to our whole community when illness strikes. This means being cautious and continuing to test children before you send them back to school.

Spelling Magic!

At the end of last term, Robins did a Sponsored Spell to raise money for the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance. The children were amazing on the day and blew Ms Rushton away with their enthusiasm and determination to do their best. So far they have raised over £280 and sponsor money is still coming in. Robins would like to thank everyone for their generosity!

Help, Drivers Needed!

We greatly value our school minibus as it helps us to keep costs down when we want to take children on trips away from school. We have always been fortunate to have a team of parent volunteers to drive the minibus when we need them, but the number of available parents has dropped recently. If you think you might be able to offer to act as a driver for the minibus from time to time, please contact the school office. We can offer full training, for free, which is a useful string to anyone's bow!

Signs of Spring!

As the weather is slowly improving, the children will be allowed on the field to play more often. At the moment though, they will need wellingtons so please make sure there is a named pair in school at all times for them, or you might get complaints at home!

The Robins have been out and about looking for signs of Spring. More pictures are the Robins class webpage

Book Week Next Week

If you check out the Diary Dates on our new, improved, website you'll see that next week is Book Week! The children will be taking part in reading related activities in class and the week will end with our usual celebration of stories by asking everyone to come to school dressed as their favourite book character on Friday. It's time to have a rummage in the dressing up box again!

The Fantastic Fred Experience

On Thursday, the whole school was lucky enough to be treated to a visit from Fantastic Fred. This fun workshop, which is part of a national NHS programme for schools, helped all the children think about ways to improve their mental health. I was impressed today when the children could tell me about ways they were planning to help themselves feel fit and well. Their ideas included:

- Getting more exercise
- Cutting down on screen time
- Eating more vegetables
- Getting enough sleep

Great advice for all of us! This weekend would be a really good time to have a conversation with your child about such issues – as they will be motivated to make positive changes. You can find more information about Fantastic Fred here.

Reminder

Please ensure your data collection sheet is returned asap. It is vital we have up to date contact information for all children. Thank you!

And Finally…

I am sad to announce that Mrs Thrupp has decided the time is right to move on to pastures new. She has been a steadfast presence in the school office for many years and we are all wondering what we'll do without her! More information will follow about how to contribute to her leaving gift!

Paul Newton

Executive Head Teacher