

## **Newsletter**

Dear parent/carers

### **COVID Update**

As we enter the second week of lockdown it is becoming clearer to school that there are more positive cases around the Mansfield area. With this in mind can you please ensure you follow our procedures and protocols, especially the social distancing requirements and the leaving the school grounds once you have collected your child/children at the end of the day.

As part of our in-school protocols, we are required to keep all classrooms well ventilated. This does mean that during the school day at least one window and the door to the room will be kept open. We are aware that as the weather becomes cooler, some of our children are finding this a little uncomfortable. To enable your child/children to feel more comfortable in class please ensure they are wearing a school jumper/cardigan or fleece. They may even want to put an extra layer under their t-shirt or shirt. On PE days send your child/children in joggers rather than shorts.

In the event of us having to isolate one of our bubbles and send them home, it is imperative that we are able to contact you. Please ensure that we have your most up-to-date contact details and that one of the contacts is always available.

### **Absence**

As a school it is our legal duty to keep track of why children are absent, even more so during the current pandemic. It is important that you contact us when your child is absent from school at the earliest opportunity.

### **Free School Meals**

As many of you are aware, Marcus Rashford has been campaigning for those entitled to benefits based free school meals to receive support over the school holidays. Earlier this week the Government announced that they would be providing local authorities with funds to be able to provide this.

Nottinghamshire local authority have also announced that they will be back-dating their support to include the October half term.

Therefore if you are in receipt of benefits based free-school meals the school may need an email address so that the vouchers can be emailed to you (if we are able to use the same scheme). Please ensure you contact the school office if you have



changed your email address recently or haven't given it to us. We will let you know as soon as possible how the vouchers will be distributed.

The school is fully aware that the impact of the pandemic has affected many families financially. If you are one of those families please do not struggle or be too proud to apply for free-school meals, if you feel your child/children might now be entitled to them. Click the link below to apply:

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-meals/free-school-meals-and-milk>

### **Parking Responsibly and Safely**

We know that many of you choose to drive your child/children to and from school each day. A polite reminder that every driver has a duty of care to drive and park responsibly. This means not parking on pavements in such a way that pedestrians are unable to get through, not parking on the zigzags outside school between 8.00am and 4.30pm, not blocking a local resident's drive when parking.

### **Children in Need**

Don't forget that on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November Birklands will be creating the Ultimate Feel Good Friday Feeling, as we support this worthwhile charity. Information about this was sent out last week.

We are sure your child will be buzzing with excitement at the end of that day. We can't wait to see the costumes.

### **Poppies**

A big thank you for your poppy purchases. As soon as we know how much the school has raised for the Royal British Legion we will let you know.



And finally remember:



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask them.

Mrs Smith (Head of School)