

Coates Way School



Newsletter No. 3

17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now reached the end of the autumn term and, once again, Covid-19 has meant that we were not able to finish the year as we had planned or even get to the official end of term. Whilst we still managed to put up our Christmas decorations in the hall and dining room, the rise of the new Omicron variant meant the children could not eat the Christmas dinner together in the hall. Similarly, staff arrangements also had to change with bubbles set up around the school. Just like last year, the staff and children have recorded some Christmas songs that will be posted on Google classroom before we break up for the end of term. These are available to watch using your usual Google classroom login.

We would also like to wish Mrs Youens a very happy retirement as she leaves school at the end of term.

On behalf of all the children and staff at Coates Way School, we wish you and your family a very enjoyable break and a happy new year. Look out for the message Santa has made on our Facebook page!

Covid-19

You will have had this message so many times but if you, anyone in your immediate family or your child develops any of the Covid symptoms i.e. cold, continuous cough, sore throat, high temperature or loss of taste and smell, then please have your child PCR tested and keep them off school until you have received a negative result. It is very unnerving when a child is coughing or sneezing continually throughout the day. A confirmed negative PCR test would reassure both staff and children that they are not at risk of catching Covid. This is even more important as the new Omicron virus is sweeping across the country and we want to be able to keep the school open in the spring term.

Parking

It now seems a common theme that I have to mention in every single newsletter about the incredibly selfish and sometimes dangerous parking habits of some of our parents. Is it going to need someone getting seriously injured before things improve? We would hope not. The whole road in Coates Way is available for parking except for the areas parked with yellow lines around the school. Please park sensibly and with consideration even if it means parking further away from the school and walking a few extra yards to drop your child off.

Free School Meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are eligible for Universal Free School Meals but this will cease when the children move into Year 3. All parents are encouraged to check as to whether

they may be eligible for Free School Meals because they may be claiming some kind of benefit. Access to Free School Meals also provides assistance to other areas which may help your child. If you think you may qualify, please call into the school office where the office staff can tell you how to apply.

Healthy Eating

May we remind all parents that children's snacks at break time must be of a healthy option i.e. fruit or vegetables. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2 classes will be provided with fruit as part of the Government's 5 a day initiative. Please do not send your child in to school with chocolate bars or sweets as these are not permitted.

This is also a good opportunity to remind parents that we have a number of children who suffer from nut allergies. It is totally unacceptable and not permitted under any circumstances to send children into school with nuts. This includes peanut butter spread and Nutella spread. Please respect this rule as we have children, and adults, who are at risk. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Forthcoming Events:

Friday 17th December – End of term. **Finishing times for each class previously circulated**

Wednesday 5th January – INSET day. School closed for pupils

Thursday 6th January – School open for pupils

Friday 11th February – End of half term

Monday 28th February – Year 6 trip to SeaCity

Thursday 10th March – Fundraisers clothing collection day (details to follow)

Friday 1st April – End of term. **School ends at 1.30pm (to be confirmed)**

Tuesday 19th April - School open for pupils

Thursday 5th May – School closed for voting

Friday 6th May – INSET day. School closed for pupils

Monday 9th May – Year 6 SATs week

Friday 27th May – End of half term. **School ends at 1.30pm (to be confirmed)**

Monday 6th June – School open for pupils

Monday 13th June – Year 6 residential trip to France/Belgium

Tuesday 19th July - End of term. **School ends at 1.30pm (to be confirmed)**

Please note that this is a change to the previous date for the end of the school year. All schools have been allocated an additional day's holiday as an extra bank holiday has been added for 2022 as a celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.