

# Coates Way School



## Newsletter No. 2

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now come to the end of the first half of the autumn term and it is fair to say that it has been a challenging term. Covid is still impacting heavily on how we operate as we have been experiencing new cases every week and just recently this new 'super cold' virus has been sweeping through the school leading to high numbers of both staff and pupil absences. We have said this so many times but if your child develops any of the Covid symptoms i.e. cold, continuous cough, 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.

We thank you all for your patience and support for the parent consultations that took place over the telephone this last week. We hope that you appreciate that undertaking face to face meetings in school is not the safest procedure considering the current circumstances but from talking to staff it appears that overall, the dialogue between parents and teachers has generally been a very positive experience.

### **Staff changes**

We would like to inform parents and carers that Mrs Youens will be retiring at the end of the autumn term. Mrs Youens started her employment at the school in October 2001 initially as a learning support assistant before changing her role in school to become the office manager. Mrs Youens will be a very hard act to follow as we will miss the wealth of experience she has accumulated over the years but we wish her the very best for the future. Mrs Brookes will continue as the admin assistant and we are advertising for a new experienced office manager. If you are aware of anyone who you believe has the skills and experience required to undertake this very important role in the school, please let the school know.

### **Parking**

Once again there is a need to raise the issue of parking at the drop off and collection times. Some parents are being incredibly inconsiderate by either blocking driveways or double parking and blocking vehicles in. The amount of complaints we are receiving from local residents and other parents of the school is unbelievable. We have even had incidents of parents turning their cars around in the school gates whilst other parents are standing at the gates waiting to collect their children. 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.

### **Pantomime Trip**

We have booked a visit to the pantomime for KS1 and KS2 children. The Coates Way Fundraisers have, once again, kindly agreed to pay for the coaches. A letter has already been sent home with details of this trip. Unfortunately, Watford Colosseum is undergoing a refurbishment so we are unable to take the children in Early Years out to see a performance as we have done in previous years. The Early Years team are looking at organising something different for the children at Christmas.

### **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 Year 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 chocolate spread. Please respect this rule as we have children, and adults, who are at risk. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

### **Midday Lunch Supervisor Vacancy**

We are looking to add another midday supervisor to our lunch time team. This is a term time only appointment. The ideal candidate will be reliable, able to communicate easily with children, flexible and able to use their own initiative. All school staff must undertake a full DBS check and would be expected to attend some training courses throughout the year. The hours of work are 11.45am to 1.15pm Monday to Friday. Please contact the school office if you are interested.

### **Forthcoming Events:**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November – Children return to school

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November – Edge Farm visit for Early Years and KS1 children

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Key stage 1 trip to pantomime

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas dinner and DVD afternoon

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Key stage 2 trip to Pantomime

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – End of term. **School ends at 1.30pm (to be confirmed)**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – INSET day. School closed for pupils

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January – School open for pupils

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February – End of half term

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Year 6 trip to SeaCity

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March – Fundraisers clothing collection day (details to follow)  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – End of term. **School ends at 1.30pm (to be confirmed)**  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April - School open for pupils  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May – School closed for voting  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May – INSET day. School closed for pupils  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs week  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May – End of term. **School ends at 1.30pm (to be confirmed)**  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – School open for pupils  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Year 6 residential trip to France/Belgium  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.