



Sholing Infant School

Newsletter: **October 2021**

Dear Parents

Welcome to the October newsletter. This half term is flying by and it is fantastic to see the progress that the children have been making. Our Year R children are quickly learning their sounds and are so proud to have their first reading books!

Year 1 are looking forward to their first school trip to Portsmouth docks and The Warrior, having missed their YR trips due to COVID-after half term they will be learning all about pirates!

Year 2 had a great day at Beaulieu and are experts on the difference between life in Victorian Britain and life today. Bringing topics and children's learning to life through educational visits makes such a difference to their understanding and progress.

We are continuing to follow our risk assessment in relation to COVID, and will follow our contingency plan if needed. Although numbers of cases amongst pupils/staff are low, we have seen an increase over the past week and are therefore putting in place the following measures:

- Only one parent may attend any events/assemblies in school and a mask must be worn indoors.
- We will minimise the number of visitors in school to essential visitors who will wear masks.
- Parents evening will go ahead as planned next week but a maximum of two adults may attend and the event will be socially distanced-please wear a mask.
- Singing assemblies will be in separate year groups as transmission is more likely as a result of singing.

All other school activities will continue as currently, but please be aware that further contingency measures may be put in place should this be necessary.

Entry/Exit points

Please do your best to enter the school via Heath Rd and exit through Middle Road as per the one-way system we had in place last term. Year R parents in Hedgehogs class may exit through the KS1 playground to Middle Road, via the school garden. This will ease congestion on the path to Heath Rd at the end of the day.

Healthy High Five!

Miss Cooper, our PSHE lead, is hoping to achieve the Healthy High Five Award in school this year, and is working with our school council on initiatives to support this.

We will have lots of 'Walk to School' 'Cycle/scoot to school' activities as well as a focus on healthy eating and exercise.

Last year, some children brought in cakes/sweets etc. for their birthdays as they were not permitted to have parties due to COVID restrictions. Now this has changed, may we ask that children don't bring in anything. We will celebrate children's birthdays in class assemblies, as we did previously and your child will come home with a card/birthday crown/little gift.

Absence

Please report any absence as soon as possible in the morning, preferably before 8:55am. The school is then able to code absences correctly. Should absence be unexplained, the school office will contact you by phone to check the reason for absence. Should no contact be possible by phone, a home visit will be undertaken as any child unaccounted for becomes a safeguarding concern.

Lisa Houghton and Trevor Steward are Designated Safeguarding Leads at school. Please contact them should you ever have concerns about a child. Alternatively, anyone can contact MASH- the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub on 023 8083 3336

Behaviour

Our Behaviour Policy is published on our website for your information alongside a range of other school policies including attendance and safeguarding and complaints. Please email the school office if you require a paper copy.

Online Safety Advice

We are aware of how difficult it can be as parents and carers to stay up-to-date with all the latest online games and apps. This makes it really difficult to know which sites and apps are safe for our children. The NSPCC have a website called Net Aware which gives advice about the latest games and apps. So if you need to know about a particular game why not check it out there first? You can visit Net Aware at <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Influenza vaccinations

Solent NHS Trust is again offering the nasal influenza immunisation to pupils in all year groups in school. This will take place on 24 November. Information and consent forms will be sent home in due course. The vaccination is painless and the vast majority of parents took up the free vaccination last year. However, the decision is made by parents and **NO child will be vaccinated unless the NHS Trust has written consent from parents.**

INSET days for the remainder of this school year are:

Tuesday 4 January 2022

Friday 18 March 2022

Friday 27 May 2022

Please note that Tuesday 3 May will also be a school closure as the Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday falls in school half term holidays.