

December 2020 newsletter

Be kind!

Unfortunately this virus has had a ripple across our community and there are alarming numbers rising in whole Torridge area. Here at the school we follow government guidance and only government guidance. Any actions or letters are given to us by Public Health England. These are government instructions, we have no choice. Despite parent complaints, we have reacted immediately to each positive case including staff coming into school on a Sunday to inform parents at the first possible opportunity. Individuals' questions, worries and anxieties are supported throughout each day by office staff, the IT technician and senior leaders.

This week has been challenging for staff. We have dealt with unfair complaints, hurtful comments on Facebook, official reports made to the education service and unjust complaints to the local press. All staff at the school are key workers. We too are anxious about keeping the children in the school safe as well as ensuring our own families stay healthy. Our intention when closing bubbles is for you to keep your family safe and healthy from this dreadful virus. Staff are working relentlessly to keep your children safe. Rest assured, in school we are incredibly strict and careful about avoiding contamination between bubbles, deep cleaning three times a day and continually handwashing. We know that sending bubbles home to self-isolate has an impact on you as a family, your work and managing everyday life. To ensure your child continues to learn, teachers are supporting learning from home while self-isolating themselves. Teachers are devastated and upset by the unfair behaviour and comments of the minority of parents.

Please be kind to us!

We are working hard, doing more than our best for the community of East-the-Water.

As you know Devon is Tier 2 High Alert. Please see the end of this newsletter for the government's Tier 2 guidance.

School Council Prepares a Merry Meal!

Thanks School Council members for helping the kitchen review our Christmas Lunch and making a picnic party option possible.

Christmas Lunch and Parties Wednesday 16th December

Please send your child into school wearing party clothes on Wednesday 16th December. Please ensure you have contacted the school office regarding a Christmas school lunch order if your child is self-isolating. If you cannot print off slip, simply complete your child's details on the front of an envelope and return, if paying enclose £2.30. Parties will take place across the school in the afternoon.

Christmas / Favourite Jumpers and T-shirts Fridays

If your child wishes to wear their favourite t-shirt or jumper, we are happy for this to happen each Friday until the end of December. This is not compulsory, if your child is happy to wear school uniform as normal- that is okay too! School trousers/skirts and shoes should be worn as normal. Please don't call the office regarding other options.

Christmas songs/ recordings- Needed by Monday 8th December

Year 5 - a Christmas jumper or t-shirt. Bring item into school in a named bag.

Year 6 - something Christmassy to wear, such as a jumper, t-shirt or Christmas hat. Ensure item is named, it will be returned home on Friday 11th.

Holiday

The school will be closed 21st December – 3rd January 2021. Children and staff return on Monday 4th January. On behalf of the staff and governors, we wish you safety and good health over the holiday period. Please note that school holidays will not be authorised during COVID restrictions and we ask that you do not consider applying for holiday during spring term. Any future absence during term time will need to be requested in writing from the governing body. If the absence is considered significant we will provide you with a request form to complete.

Flu Immunisation

We are aware that many children miss out on the Flu Immunisation due to self-isolation. This arrangement is managed by Public Health, we only host this. However we have now allocated an additional date ensuring all pupils can be immunised. Your child can only be vaccinated if your permission is given. If you have not already signed up your child for the vaccination but would now like them to receive it, you need to call the Single Point of Access number of 0300 247 0082.

11th December – pupils in reception, Years 1,4,5,6

17th December – Pupils in years 2 and 3

Food Vouchers

If your child is sent home to isolate and is entitled to free school meals, you will be automatically sent a food voucher. You don't need to do anything. We will organise this for you.

Google Classroom

Well done to everyone who has managed this - we are learning everyday how to further improve this. All logins do work but if you are having trouble please call the school and speak to our IT technician who will be happy to support you.

Reception Intake September 2021

Please ensure you have applied for a school place before 15th January. You can contact the education helpline or apply online;

03451551019

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

Healthy Start Vouchers

If you're pregnant or have a child under 4, you could get Healthy Start vouchers to help buy some basic foods. This important means-tested scheme provides vouchers to spend with local retailers. Pregnant women and children over 1 and under 4 can get one £3.10 voucher per week. Children under 1 can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week. <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/how-to-apply/>

The vouchers can be spent on:

- Plain cow's milk – whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed.
- Fresh, frozen and tinned fruit and vegetables including loose, pre-packed, whole, sliced, chopped or mixed fruit or vegetables, fruit in fruit juice, or fruit or vegetables in water, but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added
- Fresh, dried and tinned pulses, including but not limited to lentils, beans, peas and chickpeas but not those to which fat, salt, sugar or flavouring have been added
- Infant formula milk that says it can be used from birth and is based on cow's milk

Goodbye

Goodbye Mrs Scott, Mrs Ashford and Mr Kelly it has been lovely having you this term. Good luck with your new placements and your teacher training!

We are sorry to see Mrs Smart leave us. Thank you for all your hard work and the commitment you have given all the children here at East-the-Water Primary School. We will miss you very much. I am sure Cedar class will enjoy having Mrs Brett and Mrs Todd as their new teachers.

Key dates for your diary

Please note that you can print your own school calendar with holiday dates for 2020, 2021 and 2022 from our school website.

- **Christmas break** 21st December -4th January 2021
- **INSET** Friday 12th February- school is closed for training day
- **Spring half term** 15th -19th February 2021
- **Bank Holiday** - Friday 2nd April
- **Easter Break** Friday 2nd April -16th April

- **Bank Holiday** - Monday 3rd May
- **Summer half term break** 27th May- 4th June
- **Summer break** begins Monday 26th July

Tier 2: High alert

This is for areas with a higher or rapidly rising level of infections, where some additional restrictions need to be in place.

- you must not socialise with anyone you do not live with or who is not in your support bubble in any indoor setting, whether at home or in a public place
- you must not socialise in a group of more than 6 people outside, including in a garden or a public space – this is called the ‘rule of 6’
- businesses and venues can continue to operate, in a [COVID-Secure](#) manner, other than those which remain closed by law, such as nightclubs
- pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals
- hospitality businesses selling food or drink for consumption on their premises are required to:
 - provide table service only, in premises which sell alcohol
 - close between 11pm and 5am (hospitality venues in airports, ports, transport services and motorway service areas are exempt)
 - stop taking orders after 10pm
- hospitality businesses and venues selling food and drink for consumption off the premises can continue to do so after 10pm as long as this is through delivery service, click-and-collect or drive-through
- early closure (11pm) applies to casinos, cinemas, theatres, museums, bowling alleys, amusement arcades, funfairs, theme parks, adventure parks and activities, and bingo halls. Cinemas, theatres and concert halls can stay open beyond 11pm in order to conclude performances that start before 10pm
- public attendance at outdoor and indoor events (performances and shows) is permitted, limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- public attendance at spectator sport and business events can resume inside and outside, subject to [social contact rules](#) and limited to whichever is lower: 50% capacity, or either 2,000 people outdoors or 1,000 people indoors
- places of worship remain open but you must not socialise with people from outside of your household or support bubble while you are indoors there, unless a legal exemption applies
- weddings and funerals can go ahead with restrictions on numbers of attendees – 15 people can attend wedding ceremonies and receptions, 30 people can attend funeral ceremonies, and 15 people can attend linked commemorative events such as wakes or stone settings.
- organised outdoor sport, and physical activity and exercise classes can continue
- organised indoor sport, physical activity and exercise classes will only be permitted if it is possible for people to avoid mixing with people they do not live with (or share a support bubble with). There are exceptions for indoor disability sport, sport for educational purposes and supervised sport and physical activity for under-18s, which can take place with larger groups mixing
- you can continue to travel to venues or amenities which are open, but should aim to reduce the number of journeys you make where possible
- if you live in a tier 2 area, you must continue to follow tier 2 rules when you travel to a tier 1 area. Avoid travel to or overnight stays in tier 3 areas other than where necessary, such as for work, education, youth services, to receive medical treatment, or because of caring responsibilities. You can travel through a tier 3 area as a part of a longer journey
- for international travel see the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office [travel advice](#) for your destination and the [travel corridors list](#)