



# SPRING TERM

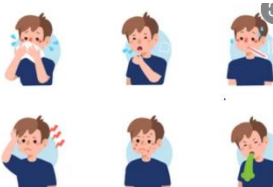
10<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Values at Stepping Stones

### The Value of the Week is Trust

We will be promoting this value through the school. We will be focusing on how to show you can be trusted by telling the truth, carrying out tasks responsibly and how you can put your trust in others to support you.

Last week we did not receive any nominations from home. Please can we remind you to just send in a little message celebrating any things your child has done to show a school value at home. These will be shared at daily meeting and celebrated. You could nominate your child if they are doing things responsibly and showing they can be trusted at home.



### COVID Updates

Last week we had approx. 25% of the staff team absent. As outlined in the letter sent home last week, we are really working hard and everyone is helping and supporting where they can to ensure we can keep the school open to all. As outlined this is meaning additional workload for many staff and we continue to ask you to be patient.

One of the staff team did test positive on Friday, which will continue to impact on the staffing for the following week. We have identified Oak class as direct contacts although we ask all parents/ carers to be vigilant over illnesses.

### TESTING AND CLOSE CONTACTS

All staff are taking regular Lateral Flow Tests and we are asking families to do the same. Lateral Flow Tests are for Asymptomatic Testing and the advice is that if you / your child have symptoms e.g. Runny Nose, aching, headaches, excessive sneezing, high temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste / smell then you should seek a PCR test and isolate until you receive the results.

If your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive then you will be asked to use LFD testing daily for a period of 7 days after contact on your child. (This is now advised for all children over the age of 5)

**If you're unsure, please contact the school office. DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL WITH SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS.**

### Class Dojo and Communication



**Please can we ask all parents to be using the Class Dojo App. All information is shared via this platform and it is really important for us to know you are getting messages quickly, when needed.**

### PE and Swimming



Due to the current situation and constant staffing issues around COVID etc, and high level of absences from children, we have taken the decision to postpone swimming for this term. We would struggle to staff this activity and it would not be cost efficient at the present time with a high level of pupil absence from school.

All teachers will post on Dojo, your child's PE day. Please ensure they wear appropriate PE kit to school. Most lessons take place outside so jogging bottoms, T-shirt, school jumper etc.

### Diary Dates

**School Opens on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**School Closes for February Half Term on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022.**



# Reading Developments

## January 2022

During the Spring term we are focusing on Reading across the whole school. We want to share with you some of the things we will be doing and how you can be involved at home.

### Dedicated Reading Nooks and Class Novels

Each classroom is developing their reading areas and ensuring that there is a range of texts linked to their topics, learning and interests. Children will be encouraged to DEAR – (Drop Everything and Read). This is where the teacher will allocate time for children to have free choice and reading time throughout the week. Children will be encouraged to choose from the texts in class to explore and develop their interests. Adults will read to the children, children can read to each other, share a text or read independently.



Each class has a class novel / key texts and the teacher will read to the class every day. The teachers will share this with you via Class Dojo.



## ClassDojo

### Book Packs to Read at Home - Class Dojo Reading Challenge

#### A book at bedtime

Over the next few weeks we will be developing a range of reading packs. These will include a range of texts and suggested activities. Children can loan a pack.

The child should then share the book with someone at home. A parent / family member can read the book with the child. We would love to collect lots of photos of children reading at home. So, if your child does do this we ask for you to photograph them and send the image through Class Dojo. You can just write a sentence together about what you enjoyed. These will then be displayed in school. Every time a child does this, they will receive a raffle ticket to be given a chance to win either a book of their choice or a book voucher at the end of the half term. Obviously, the more the children read and share at home, the more opportunities for them to receive a prize. We will send more information out in a flyer.

### Book Exchange – Take a Book

We will have a box of books available from this week where the children can take a book, take it home and either keep it or swap it. We will welcome book donations of any texts that your child no longer reads, to be part of the book exchange. The children can keep these books for as long as they like and there is no expectation for them to return them.

