



SPRING TERM

17th January 2022

Values at Stepping Stones

The Value of the Week is Thoughtfulness



We will be promoting this value through the school. This week we are focusing on thoughtfulness and thinking of others. Thank you for the nominations from home last week and it was great to celebrate how your child is showing the values at home.

We will be encouraging the children to think about other people, look after other people and we will also be linking this to some of the new books for the week.

The reading at home challenge continues and the books we have to loan this week focus on Our World.



COVID Updates

Since our return after the Christmas holidays, we have continued to see a steady rise in the number of cases of COVID19 across the school. We have been in discussions with Public Health Lancashire to ensure that we are doing everything we can to limit transmission as much as possible and keep families and staff safe. However, it is inevitable that we will continue to see positive cases, both in staff and pupils, and we must all continue to be mindful of keeping our distance and doing all we can to support each other.

Due to the continued pressures on staffing, we must also stress that although we continue to do everything we can to function as normal, there will be times when things will be missed – so please bear with us!

As you will be aware you no longer need a PCR to confirm COVID. An LFD test is sufficient. However, if you do have symptoms and are getting negative results a PCR can be taken.

For now, we wish to highlight the next set of changes regarding self-isolation that will be introduced from 17 January as well as remind you of how you can continue to support all we do in school.

From Monday 17 January, the self-isolation period will be reduced from 7 days to 5. However, this is not as straightforward as it sounds, so please use the example below:

- Day 0 Positive test or symptoms start (whichever happens first). This day isn't included when calculating your isolation period.
- Day 1 The first day of isolation begins the day after your symptoms started or that you tested positive – whichever happens first.
- Day 5 Take an LFD Test and continue to isolate. If the result is negative you can take another test 24 hours later on Day 6. If it is positive, continue your isolation period.
- Day 6 Take an LFD Test. If the results of Day 5 and Day 6 are both negative, your isolation ends at the point of your second test. If the result is positive, continue your isolation period.

If you continue getting positive test results on day 5,6,7,8,9 etc. then the isolation ends at the end of Day 10.

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

Mobile Phones in School



We have had a number of children start bringing their mobile phones to school.

Some of our Y6 children may be getting to the age where they are left for a short period of time at home whilst mum / dad / people at home take their other child to school etc. We appreciate in these circumstances a mobile phone would be used for them, to let you know they are home, safe and ok.

Therefore, any child that is having a mobile phone needs to have it agreed with the school and adhere to the rules around the use of mobile phones.

If they have no agreement and no justified reason then their phone should remain at home.

If it has been agreed then the child must adhere to the rules around this.

Children should not be using mobile phones on transport as this presents a safeguarding risk. We have children attending the school who are very vulnerable and their images can not be taken, shared etc. Children don't always know this and therefore we ask for mobile phones not to be used.

If it is agreed then it should remain in the school office all day.

Children who are bringing mobile phones in 'forgetting', are asked to put their phone in the school office. They are reminded not to bring their phone to school.

We have several reasons why phones are not appropriate at this age. Over the past months we have dealt with several incidents that children have been involved in out of school hours, texting, messaging and calling. Some of the content is not age appropriate and it does then impact on the school day.

This Week's Recommended Read



We have a range of books available for the children to loan and take part in the Reading Challenge. This is where they share a book at bedtime / during the evening with someone at home. They can talk about the book and we are encouraging a quick photo and sharing with the class teacher or Mrs Dodd something they have enjoyed about the book.

Last week we had lots of children reading at home. A high number of children really enjoyed The Day the Crayons Quit. We still have several copies of this in school if your child wishes to loan it this week.

This Half Term the whole school is focusing on 'Protecting our Planet'

KS1 are learning about food and farming. Maple Class are learning about Fair Trade and Oak and Orchard Class are learning about our carbon footprint.

This week my recommended read will be Greta and the Giants, which is inspired by Greta Thunberg. We will also have a range of non-fiction books linked to looking after our planet.

You can watch the author read the story too. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HF10XNM7Pzq>

Remember to share your reading at home with your class teacher or Mrs Dodd in order to be entered into the reading raffle.

Diary Dates

School Opens on Wednesday 5th January 2022

School Closes for February Half Term on Friday 11th February 2022.