



# Parent Link

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Issue 3  
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2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly I am very grateful to the parents that logged in to our Parent Forum yesterday and gave their views about our proposed Relationships and Sex Education policy and curriculum. It was great to see so many of you (through the screen!) and to discuss this really important topic. It can be something that is neglected even in mainstream education, but within our special school world there is an additional vulnerability for our pupils which means we need to take an individual and measured approach to what we teach and when. Teachers will be receiving training on this after the half term break and there will be further communication with you about the topics taught. As ever, we encourage your ongoing collaboration and discussion about any issues that arise.

As much as I'd rather write about something else, I do need to reissue a reminder to parents about our Covid related protocols.

- Children presenting with recognised symptoms should not be coming in to school. If your child has a temperature or is coughing, s/he needs a test to confirm it is not Coronavirus before coming back to school. As a school we have no right to ask for evidence of this, however failure to do so puts the rest of the school population at risk.
- If someone within the household has symptoms, everyone in the house needs to isolate until a test result is received.
- If a child presents with symptoms in school, you are required to pick him/her up immediately. If your child has a temperature and then it goes back down again, you still need to get a test. We appreciate this is inconvenient, but it is Public Health England guidelines.
- We do recognise there are a variety of reasons why children have temperatures, and in many cases the cause will not be Coronavirus. However neither you nor school staff know this without having a test, which is why it is required.
- A temperature of 37.8 or above is considered to be high, and triggers the above. Again we know some children do typically have a higher temperature than others, however we require a medical opinion in writing to state that any thing 37.8 or above should be ignored.

I am aware the vast majority of parents are fully supportive of these measures and recognise the need to follow these guidelines for the benefit of their child, their family and the wider school community. One of the reasons that numbers have been rising generally is where people have not followed guidelines, and we are keen to ensure we in no way contribute to this increase. My thanks for your co-operation.

Please see a separate e-mail from the Director of Education, Simon James, in relation to social distancing when on school sites.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

## **Autumn Term 2020 dates**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **Other dates for Parents:**

W/C 2<sup>nd</sup> November – Parent Forum – Cressex-  
*details to follow*

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November – 9.15 – 10.30am – puberty  
workshop – *details to follow*

W/C 7<sup>th</sup> December – Parent Forum – Cressex –  
*details to follow*

## **Parent governor vacancies**

I am hoping you saw the parent governor vacancies advertised via parentmail yesterday. If you have any questions please contact Bradley or Bridget (Chair of Governors). We have a total of 4 parent governors, with 2 of these positions currently vacant – our apologies this wasn't clear from the letter.

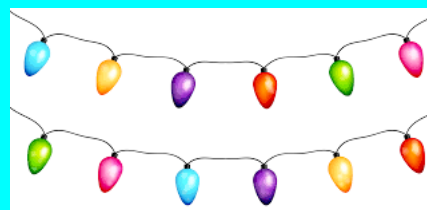
## **A request from Rainbow Department**



If anyone has any scooters, balls or other outside toys they no longer want, Please can these be donated to Rainbow Department.



Also, fairy lights, any sensory light items, and plastic storage boxes for the Rainbow Sensory room would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



## News from around the school

### Rainbow

We have been so impressed with the children this half term and how well they have returned to school following the holidays. There have been some wonderful wow moments particularly around communication, toilet training and intensive interaction. It has been great to hear the wow moments from home too. We now come to the end of our topic all about me. Next we will be moving onto our new topic which will consider space and weather. We hope you have had a wonderful half term when it comes. Hannah

### Coppice

It has been a pleasure seeing all the hard work children are doing around the department- A huge Welcome to Holly who has joined us in Red Kite class- it has been lovely to see you settling into class. The children in Red Kite have been so welcoming and excited to have Holly here in person after spending so much time seeing her virtually! Falcon have been working hard on practicing positional language. Squirrel and Deer class have been exploring their new story 'Potion Commotion'.

With our first parents evening upon us please liaise with you class teachers to arrange an appointment – these can be done via phone or virtually. Salma

### Little Wings

As the temperature drops towards winter, please remember to send your child in with plenty of warm clothes and a waterproof coat. In Little Wings we follow a learning-through-play approach which includes the use of our outside area, even through the winter months.

We're all really looking forward to catching up with parents next week and sharing all the good work and progress the children have made. We always find a lot changes in a very short space of time in the Autumn term! We wish you and your children restful and joyful half term, charging your batteries ready for the next 7 weeks. Claire

### Treetops

Across the department the students have been working on using a total communication approach using IPADs, Makaton and communication books to greet their friends and make requests. The 6th form have also been enjoying going swimming at the local sports centre and some students have been going for walkouts. Reminder parents evening next week- please discuss with your class teacher whether you want to do this through zoom or by telephone. Have a good weekend. David

### Woodlands

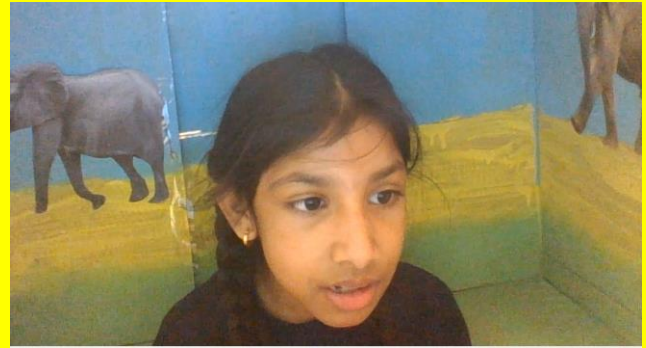
We are looking forward to talking to you over the phone about how your child has settled in this term, what they have been working on and what they will be working on next. if possible, please familiarise yourself with your child's PPP (Pupil Provision and Progress) document beforehand.

We would love to see any photographs of activities your child does over half term. Experiencing and exploring autumnal stimuli outside e.g. autumn leaves and fir cones would link to our 'In the Garden Through the Seasons' topic. Please send any photos to your child's class teacher. Happy half term for the week after next! Amanda

### Gemstones

A walk around Gemstones this week will take you to the Great wall of China, the Taj Mahal in India, you might see some Tigers creeping out of Sapphire, Bears climbing the walls of Topaz and watch out for the African Elephants parading up and down in Ruby! It is great to see some of the children getting passionate about green issues that threaten our Wonderful world and really thinking about how we can make a difference in school.

## Ruby Class – Elephant Documentary



Some screenshots from Ruby's 'TV' documentary about elephants (great viewing!)