



Parent Link

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Issue 4
5th November
2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a good half term break and your children have settled into this week well. It certainly feels as though the seasons are changing with temperatures noticeably dropping towards the end of this week. Whilst I am not anticipating any snow any time soon, it is always at this point in the year that we remind everyone of our processes should the school need to close because of inclement weather. Bridget as chair of governors and I make this decision, and my first port of call is the Bucks School Closures website (<https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/>) – can I ask that if you are in any doubt as to whether the school is open or not, that you visit this site first please.

Subsequently I will send messages out via Parentmail text and e-mail messages; please note we do not use the Facebook pages to communicate a school closure.

A quick Covid update – you will be aware across the country that cases rose over the course of the first half of the autumn term. Whilst this past week has seen something of a decline in National numbers, we are being advised the number of cases is likely to rise over the winter. As ever we try to establish the right balance of being highly mindful of health vulnerabilities within our school community, and the need for the children and young people at our school to receive a consistent and high quality in-person education. As we head towards those winter months, can I make a further plea to be extra mindful of keeping your child at home if s/he is unwell for any reason. We do have a number of children within the school who are especially vulnerable, and I have every sympathy with those parents who are worried about contagion within the school environment. That said, we naturally want attendance to be as high as possible, so we can fulfil our function of teaching and supporting the progress we all want to see. I appreciate it is a tricky line for all of us, and as ever I appreciate your support in doing what's best for everyone. Whilst we had a confirmed case of a staff member over the half term break, I am pleased that this first week has not brought any confirmed cases. There is, however, a lot of other illness floating about, and I hope you and your families are managing to avoid it.

We are in the process of organising a number of events involving parents – most immediately the Christmas Bazaar on **Saturday 27th November between 4 and 7 pm** – with a degree of uncertainty about how the national picture will evolve, it is important to understand that any arrangements made are subject to change. For now we are planning for 'as normal', but nothing will be set in stone.

Best wishes for the coming weekend,
Bradley

Calendar dates

Monday 1st November – Friday 17th
December 2021



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News from around the school

Rainbow

Welcome back to Autumn 2. We hope you all had a great half term. Thank you for those of you who have already sent across pictures from your child's half term, these will be included in their learning journals. If you still have any or any 'wow' moments, we would love to hear about them, please send these across via class dojo to your child's teams please. We move to our new theme this half term, 'animals'. We will be learning about animals that live on a farm and those that live in the wild. If your child has any pets at home, we would love to see some photographs of them that they may want to share with their class, again please send these via class dojo. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah

Coppice

I hope you all had a lovely half term break and are feeling well rested ready for this last half term. I have already see some lovely things happening around the department. Squirrel class have been enjoying some lovely sensory activities, Deer class have been learning about Diwali, Falcon class have made some lovely fireworks art and Red Kite have already been out on a boat! Photos attached below. I look forward to seeing more of the course of the term!

It is getting colder and wetter please continue to ensure that children are dressed for the weather coats etc and spares in case they get wet.

For those celebrating Happy Diwali! Salma

Red Kite boat trip on the River Thames



Gemstones

The end of the first half term was marked by a Spooky celebration in the hall. Our usual assembly followed by Halloween themed activities for the children to enjoy. It was wonderful to see the children (and adults!) fishing around in coloured spaghetti worms for chocolate eyeballs, making spooky ghosts and playing potion ping pong.

The costumes were impressive, princesses superheroes and witches ! Thank you all for your support.

We have already stated looking at celebrations with Diwali and Firework night this week.

Thoughts are turning to Christmas and how we can safely invite parents to a festive celebration! Sarah

Little Wings

I hope you all had a well-rested break over half term. As the weather becomes colder we will still be doing outdoor learning as it is so motivating for our children so please send in a warm coat, hat, gloves and wellies. Waterproof trousers are a bonus! Hannah

Treetops

I hope you all had a good half term. It was great to welcome the students back on Monday and they have continued to enjoy being back and take part in lots of fun and engaging sessions. Hawk and Eagle Class continued swimming at Handy Cross which has now moved to a Monday Morning which was very successful with the students getting much more confident in the water. Kestrel and Eagle are continuing with Forest school this half term and enjoyed the nice weather on Monday. Our Christmas parent event will be happening on the 10th December in the afternoon where we will be inviting you into School. Further information to come out soon. Have a good weekend. David

Health and Therapies

Hello everyone!

We are all looking forward to the next term and seeing all of the children back. Therapists and teachers are working hard together over the next 2 weeks to discuss PPP outcomes for the children. We hope you find these targets helpful when they are shared with you to support your child going forward. Thanks,
The Health and Therapies Team

FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW ON PARENTMAIL

Week commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st Nov		First Aid 9.30am - noon Venue: Cressex run by Bucks Adult Learning	Recharge Wintry Walk 9.30-11am Venue: tbc run by Parent Ambassador	Parent Volunteers 9.30-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
8th Nov			Sensory Workshop 9.30-11am Venue: tbc run by Geri Pinnock, OT	Parent Volunteers 9.30-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
15th Nov		Annual Review Workshop for parents at primary to secondary transition stage 10-11am on Zoom Run by SENDIASS team		Parent Volunteers 9.30-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
22nd Nov			Managing Behaviour Workshop 9.30-11am Venue: tbc Run by Community Learning Disability Nurses	Parent Forum 9.30-10.30am at Downley site for parents from both sites run by Parent Ambassador	
29th Nov		Annual Review Workshop for parents of children at post-16 transition stage 10-11am on Zoom Run by SENDIASS team		Parent Volunteers 9.30-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
6th Dec		Christmas Coffee Morning with mini how to cope with Christmas Session 9.30-10.30am Venue: tbc run by Parent Ambassador		Parent Volunteers 9.30-10.30am at Cressex site run by Parent Ambassador	
13th Dec				Parent Volunteers Christmas Lunch 12-2pm Venue- tbc run by Parent Ambassador	



Annual Review Workshop for Parents of children in years 4 to 7

Run in conjunction with Bucks SENDIASS team

We'll be looking at the Annual Review Process and particularly thinking about the transition phase from primary to secondary school.

On: Tuesday 16th November 2021

From 10-11am on Zoom

(details will be sent out via parentmail)



Become a Parent Volunteer

Support your child's education through supporting the school, whilst meeting other parents and having fun!

We meet on Thursday mornings from 9-10.30am at Cressex site

For more information or to join our team, contact Liz Webber, our Parent Ambassador by phone: 01494 532621 (Cressex site) or e-mail: lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk





Gemstones Monster Ball

