



Friday 4th September 2020

Newsletter Number 3 – Autumn Term 2020

Dear families,

I just had to write to you all to thank you for your support and kindness this week. It has been an unusual start to the new school year but one where the excitement levels from children, staff and families has been incredibly high. I think for us all it has just simply been great to be back in school!

What do I do if my child is ill or has Coronavirus?

If your child has symptoms of coronavirus (new continuous cough, high temperature or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) they need to immediately self-isolate and we advise going for a COVID test. All members of the household also need to self-isolate. Please call or email school to let us know.

If the test is positive your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days starting from the first day of symptoms and the rest of the household must self-isolate for 14 days.

If the test is negative, the child can return to school as long as they are symptom free and well.

You must send proof of test results to school through the school office email. We will not allow the return of any pupils until the test result has been viewed; schooloffice@pensbyprimaryschool.org

If your child is unwell in any other way, they should stay at home as usual and you should call or email school to let us know.

How do I organise a COVID test?

You can contact NHS through the website (see link below) or by calling NHS 119.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Update on School so far.....

The children are settling back into the school routine really quickly and we are delighted with them all. There are many new systems that they are getting to grips with well and they certainly aren't missing out on teaching, being with their friends and enjoyment! Having viewed school life for 3 days, there are some updates for staff and families that will help make things even smoother:

Arrival and finish time slots

We have noticed that the busiest time to arrive at school is 8.30am to 8.40am. After this time pedestrian traffic is better paced and much less busy. At the end of the day 3.00pm to 3.15pm is particularly busy as well. If you wish to avoid these busier times you now know when they are!

Thank you for keeping to the left side of the paths when entering and leaving the school site. This really helps everyone to maintain as much distance as possible. Please continue with this, ensuring your children are with you and not mixing with other class group 'bubbles' or running ahead wherever possible.

Now that first few days are over, a reminder that one adult bringing/collecting the children to/from school would be preferable. This helps reduce the amount of people on site and allows for better social distancing, keeping everyone as safe as possible. Thank you.

Children walking home on their own

Again, thank you for supporting us by bringing and collecting all the children to school supervised by an adult. Next week, Mrs Gilleece will be talking to our year 6 pupils about our expectations for them walking to and from school on their own. It is important they have this opportunity to develop their independence and we want to help them do this safely and with full understanding. Mrs Gilleece will let families know our expectations and how this will work through Seesaw. We hope to start this on Wednesday next week. After a week of monitoring this we will then look to introduce this opportunity to year 5 pupils. Keep checking Seesaw for updates.

Reading books and equipment

Next week, for children in Reception to years 4, a small set of reading books will be sent home. We are currently assessing the children's reading and this will take some time to complete, so this first set of books may not quite be the right set for your child. As soon as each class has completed their assessments they will message families through Seesaw and ask for the first set of books to be brought back and a new set will be sent home. Keep checking Seesaw for updates.

We are still missing a lot of the home learning equipment and books from last term. Please send these back into school so we can use these in the school.

Office message

The office team want to pass on their thanks to you for using email and phone calls to communicate. This has been really helpful not just for school safety but in the light of the staffing levels we can maintain in the office at the moment.

Update on staffing

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed that Mrs Beggs is not in the year 1 classroom at the moment. Mrs Beggs has taken leave for 2 months to continue shielding with her husband who is in an exceptionally high risk category from Coronavirus.

Mrs Beggs and her husband are quite rightly taking exercise when they can, usually very early in the mornings when very few people are out, walking their dog. This exercise is essential to them. If you do see them they would appreciate a smile and a wave - from a distance please!

In the meantime, I am very grateful to Mrs Williams, who will be teaching the class all week.

PTA Zoom Meeting

We have a wonderful PTA at school and Coronavirus is not going to stop us doing our best to organise some great events for our children and their families (following the guidelines!). We have planned a Zoom PTA on Monday 14th September at 7pm. All are welcome to attend by signing in using the links below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82746088077?pwd=NzhiSUxpMVNHbDA3ak00eUJLdk5hdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 4608 8077

Passcode: 885890

Keep safe, keep well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Brown', written in a cursive style.

Mrs. K Brown, Headteacher