



Wednesday 5th January 2022

Newsletter Number 1 – Spring Term 2022

Dear families,

Welcome back and happy new year! I hope that everyone managed to get some rest and joy over the Christmas break.

The staff have asked me to pass on their thanks to you for your lovely Christmas messages and gifts. These were much appreciated. We know how busy everyone is and to pass on a kind word at such a hectic time means so much to us all – thank you!

Whole school email of 4th January 2022

Yesterday this email was sent to all families. In case you missed it, here it is again;

You will know from many media reports that we are probably facing uncertain weeks ahead with the Omicron variant likely to lead to organizational challenges. As always, we will be doing all we can to meet whatever is thrown at us and we hope that you will continue to support us in this goal. We thank you for your patience and understanding as the covid situation continues to demand so much of us all.

We start the term with some sad news that the families of year 4 children are already aware of. Mrs Toal leaves us on Friday 7th January to take up a new post with the NSPCC. Miss Reynolds (who many of you will know from last academic year and this year) is taking over the teaching of the year 4 class and we welcome her back to Pensby warmly.

Mrs Toal joined Pensby Primary in September 2008 when the school opened. From the start she has been a shining light and her smile, enthusiasm, laughter and dedication has been unwavering and clear to see. Her roles as SENDo and as part of the Senior Leadership team have been demanding and she has carried these out so remarkably well. As a class teacher, she naturally formed positive and effective relationships with the children and families in her care and these inspired those around her to do the very best they could.

Whilst Mrs Toal will visit us, we will miss her greatly and of course we wish her happiness and pleasure in her new role. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done for the children and families of the school.

And finally, the latest COVID advice can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

The main points to note are;

Information on the changes to the self-isolation period for individuals who test positive for COVID-19

Since Wednesday 22 December, the 10 day self-isolation period for people who record a positive PCR test result for COVID-19 has been reduced to 7 days in most circumstances, unless you cannot test for any reason.

Individuals may now take LFD tests on day 6 and day 7 of their self-isolation period. Those who receive two negative test results are no longer required to complete 10 full days of self-isolation. The first test must be taken no earlier than day 6 of the self-isolation period and tests must be taken 24 hours apart. This also

applies to children under 5, with LFD testing at parental or guardian discretion. If both these test results are negative, and you do not have a high temperature, you may end your self-isolation after the second negative test result and return to your education setting from day 8.

Anyone who is unable to take LFD tests will need to complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation. Further information is available in the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Daily testing for close contacts of COVID-19

People who are fully vaccinated, or children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19, should take an LFD test every day for seven days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms at any time.

Children under 5 are not being advised to take part in daily testing of close contacts. If a child under 5 is a contact of a confirmed case, they are not required to self-isolate and should not start daily testing. If they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19 they should limit their contact with anyone who is at higher risk of severe illness if infected with COVID-19, and arrange to take a PCR test as soon as possible. They can continue to attend an education or childcare setting while waiting for the PCR result. If the test is positive, they should follow the [stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed COVID-19 infection](#).

Symptoms

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- *a new continuous cough*
- *a high temperature*
- *a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)*

Christmas events

I am in total awe that the staff and PTA managed to offer so many Christmas events for the children and families. Christmas should be a time of memories and happiness for children and this is why the staff and PTA chose to organise and deliver these events for the children.

The Winter Wonderland was a fantastic event and was worth the 4 days it took to set up! Our classes enjoyed parties and of course we had Christmas Jumper day (that raised £165 for Save The Children). We put on a Christmas art exhibition, that the children loved – seeing their work displayed and purchased was a thrill! And we managed to hold our film night again where the children enjoyed pizza and chips and going home in the dark!

Our PTA also held a raffle. Thank you to those who donated prizes – and there were a lot of prizes!! The PTA donated the profits of the raffle, which were £251 to Maggie's Place, which is part of Clatterbridge Cancer Care.

The only event that we couldn't hold face to face was the carol concert, so Miss Grant led the staff in putting together some performances of the children singing and this was shared on Seesaw.

We were invited to sing carols at Asda, Arrowe Park and Mrs Shaw took some children to do this. To hear children singing again (by the door – well ventilated!) prompted so many lovely comments and people actually stopped and listened to the children sing and gave generously. The children were collecting for Clatterbridge Cancer Charity and raised £73. The children sang so well and were amazing!



Midday Assistant Post

A reminder that we are very fortunate to have funding for an additional Midday Assistant post. If you are interested in joining our Midday School team, please contact the school office for application form and job information. We do need to fill these posts as soon as possible so if you can help even on just one day a week this would be brilliant!

Dates for the term

We are early on in the term and there are many class events planned. These will be put on Seesaw and emailed to you when confirmed.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	DETAILS
Monday 31 st January	Until Wednesday 2 nd February	Year 6 to Robin Wood Centre for activity days	
Friday 18 th February	SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM BREAK		
Monday 28 th February	SCHOOL OPENS FOR SECOND HALF OF SPRING TERM		
Friday 8 th April	SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR EASTER BREAK		

And finally,

I know that many of you will want to say goodbye to Mrs Toal, so I have arranged for her to do the gate on Thursday at 3.15pm. Please don't get too close as she doesn't want COVID as a leaving gift!

Mrs K Brown, Headteacher