



Ecclesbourne Primary School

Newsletter Thursday 3rd February 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems as if we are finally through the worst of the winter and although there is still a risk of some cold weather, it is always heart-warming to see some bulbs beginning to push through, some snowdrops in bloom and to notice the lighter mornings. No doubt spring is on its way.

At the time of writing, we are still suffering the effects of Coronavirus in school. We have a steady case rate amongst children and staff members all of which disrupts learning and the way in which we can operate around school. Despite changing government advice, we are still asking staff to wear masks in communal areas and for the time being, we are avoiding gathering together as a whole school for assemblies. We would also ask that parents avoid entering the school unless it is absolutely necessary. In order to try and limit disruption and keep our community safe, we ask that if your child shows any symptoms, keep them at home and get them tested then let us know the result. Hopefully, with these measures in place we can limit transmission of the virus in school. We review our risk assessment often and when case rates allow we look forward to welcoming parents back in to school to have a look at children's work, read and share stories, watch class assemblies and generally run things as normally as possible. In the meantime, I would like to thank parents, children and staff for their ongoing patience as we negotiate this challenging time in education.

Parental Questionnaire As we try to return to the normal rhythms of a school year, we are again launching our Parental Questionnaire. This is your opportunity to share your views on the school, to let us know what we do well and to tell us about things that we might need to develop or improve. The questionnaire is very straightforward and can be accessed through the a link to Survey Monkey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/J69LYLJ> . This important survey helps to shape decisions on the future of the school and the Trust and we are hoping that we can collect over 500 responses across the Trust this year. If you need any help accessing the survey, please ask.

Reading Diaries As many of you will have noticed, we are having a huge push on reading and phonics this year. We have adopted a new phonics scheme, (Little Wandle Letters and Sounds) and invested heavily in new books to support your children with developing their reading skills. Children now have access to a greater range of targeted books in school and for reading at home either as hard copies or electronically. Please help us to support your child's reading by reading with them every day at home and recording their efforts in their reading diary. This will help us to track how children are progressing and to provide extra support where required. Watch out for some exciting reading opportunities and the chance to win prizes soon!

The start of the school day A reminder that although the school gates open at 8.30am, the playground is not supervised at this time. Any children arriving early for school should wait by their classroom door for the teacher to open up at 8.45am. Children should not be playing on the apparatus at this time.

Diary dates

Friday 11th February - Last day of half term

Monday 21st February - Return to school

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th March - Parents' evenings

Paul Robins
Head of School
Ecclesbourne Primary School