



# October 2021 Newsletter

*Helping your child develop a love for life and learning*



Value of the month – Friendship

## A MESSAGE FROM MRS BASSETT-CROSS

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been an absolute pleasure to see your children coming into school with beaming smiles, smart uniforms and an eagerness to learn. Our new Reception children have settled into their new surroundings, making new friends and enjoying the learning opportunities planned for them. Our older children have become great school ambassadors with the Year 6 children taking on roles and responsibilities across the school including prefects, house captains, playground leaders, reading buddies, literacy ambassadors and more. The beginning of an academic year always feels a little magical.

Normally I would be at the school gate looking forward to welcoming you all in on these autumnal mornings. Sadly, in the early hours of Wednesday morning I became quite poorly. Knowing that a relative, with whom I'd had close contact, had already tested positive for COVID-19, I arranged a PCR test which has subsequently returned a positive result. Therefore, in accordance with NHS and DfE guidance, I will be isolating for the time being.

As you know from previous communication, we are extremely fortunate to be in a period where our leadership team is strong. Mrs O'Brien is still very much part of the everyday life of the school, spending 2-3 days at Worpleston whilst supporting other schools during her secondment. We also have Mrs Radhika Woodruff who has stepped up into the Acting Deputy Head role and will be deputising in my absence with the support of our two Assistant Head Teachers, Mr Matt Clifton and Mr Dan Torjussen.

To all those families who have struggled throughout the pandemic and during this stage of a 'new normal', please be assured that we understand. We understand the difficult decisions you make when trying to keep your families safe; we understand that for those isolating, online learning isn't always the easiest thing; we know that for those recovering from COVID-19 that it may be a long process but I hope that you know we will always put your children's safety first and always welcome feedback and discussion.

Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that **if your child exhibits any of the main coronavirus symptoms, even if they are mild**, you should do the following:

- arrange a PCR test for your child <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>
- your child must stay at home until the result of the PCR test has been confirmed
- do not have any visitors until you receive the PCR test result
- please contact the school to confirm the test result and when your child is returning to school
- assess your child as to whether they are well enough to complete any work that will be set on Google Classroom

The main symptoms continue to be:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Since the start of term, we have observed that a number of students are suffering with sore throats, temperatures, colds and coughs. We appreciate that it can be difficult to determine if it is a simple cold or potentially the coronavirus Delta variant, which has similar symptoms to a cold i.e. a headache, sore throat or a runny nose.

We would advise that if your child is feeling unwell that you take your child's temperature before any medication has been administered and prior to departing for school. We would also recommend that you err on the side of caution if your child exhibits any of the main symptoms.



# Updates & Dates

If a member of the household tests positive for COVID, the rest of the family do not need to isolate. However, Track and Trace are recommending that family members should arrange a PCR test. Whilst waiting for the test results, family members do not have to stay at home unless they have developed symptoms. Likewise, we send out letters informing of where there has been a positive case within the school. The advice is for those within the class to also get a PCR test.

We continue to work closely with Public Health England and the local Health Protection Team to ensure we are doing all we can to mitigate risk of further spreading of coronavirus. At present we:

- remain in year groups bubbles when outside – inside the building children mostly remain in their classes
- ensure hand hygiene with sanitising stations and regular hand washing
- ensure we have well ventilated rooms and use outdoor spaces
- have regular cleaning including lunchtime clean
- remain using virtual assemblies
- adults wear masks in communal areas in the building
- have kept staggered drop off and pick up at beginning and end of day to reduce the number of people on site at one time
- have two staff room areas to avoid staff coming into close contact
- limit the number of external visitors

We endeavour to ensure all children have plentiful time outside in the fresh air. With the weather changing, please can I take this opportunity to ask for your support in providing your children with warm coats/rain coats, hats, scarves and gloves. We believe that playtimes are a vital opportunity for the children to benefit from physical activity that the children thoroughly enjoy as long as they are appropriately dressed.

As you know, the value for the month of September was belonging and our discussions have included the importance of respect, thoughtfulness and inclusion to embed a sense of belonging amongst the whole school community. As we move into October, we will be thinking about friendship and what this looks like, what it means to have good friends and to be a good friend. As part of this topic, we will be delving into our Anti-Bullying policy reminding children that bullying is never tolerated and the negative impact it can have on everyone involved.

I'd like to express a personal thanks to you for your efforts in keeping our school community safe and I look forward to seeing you all on the school gates soon.

Best wishes

Laura Bassett-Cross  
Acting Head Teacher

## **SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS (MOP-UP SESSION) – MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Our photographer has kindly agreed to come back on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October to take photographs of any individual children and siblings who were absent this Monday. Please can all these children make sure they are wearing full school uniform on this day e.g. grey skirt/pinafore/trousers/shorts, pale blue school polo shirt, red cardigan/jumper, grey/black socks/tights.

May we remind you that hairstyles should also be in line with our school policy.





# Updates & Dates



## GENTLE REMINDER

Please can we ask that if you have a message for your child's class teacher (e.g. change of pick-up arrangements) that you **email the teacher directly or inform the office by lunchtime**, this enables the office staff to get the message to the teaching team before the end of the day. If you are unsure of your child's teacher's email address, please email the office [office@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:office@worplesdon.surrey.sch.uk). Thank you for your co-operation.

## Is your child in year 6?

If so, you need to apply online for a secondary school place by **31 October 2021**. Applying on time gives you a better chance of getting one of your preferred schools.

If you live in Surrey, you can find out all you need to know about school admissions and apply online at [surreycc.gov.uk/admissions](http://surreycc.gov.uk/admissions) or you can call us on **0300 200 1004**.



Apply online  
apply on time by  
31 October 2021

