



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term! We hope you had a fantastic, and safe, half term break. This half term is always busy, and usually long! We cannot be as sure as we would like as to what this half term will bring, but we have no doubt that together we will work hard, support each other and that the adventures will be memorable. This bulletin shares lots of information but also has a focus on children's mental health. I hope you find it useful.

Ms Jordan



Coronavirus Safety



Thank you for your ongoing support with our safety measures. We continue to reflect on our risk assessments in line with the latest government advice. As cases continue to rise nationally and further lockdown measures have now been announced, to help protect our community and staff we would like to request that **all adults dropping off/picking up their children wear a face covering** and please ensure only one adult accompanies each child.

We know it is a shame for children not to be able to share Christmas cards at school or take part in a Christmas performance as in previous years, but we will not put any child, adult or family at unnecessary risk. We hope that the alternatives we are arranging for this year go some way toward making this period special in different ways and thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Mentally Healthy Schools - At School



Mentally Healthy Schools - For Home

Last half term we made some small changes to our curriculum so we could include as much social, emotional and mental health support to our children as possible. We have selected books in English that allow us to talk about feelings, expressed ourselves through art and learnt new ways to interact with our friends. We aim for every one of our classes to be '**listening classrooms**' where we hear each other's voices. For some children, this includes working 1:1 with an adult where necessary. Soon, all children will be asked about their **well-being** in school so we can continue to respond to need.

This year our schools will be participating in a **mentally healthy advent**. Every school day throughout the advent period each class will spend at least 5 minutes taking part in an activity designed to support good mental health. Everything from mindfulness and yoga to recalling good memories and having a giggle with friends will be included.

Point 1, a service for children and young people experiencing **mental health difficulties**, is available for referrals and telephone support for young people and their families. You can contact them on 0800 977 4077 or via email: point1-support@ormistonfamilies.org.uk

Family Action are offering **ASD and ADHD support** for parents and carers via a weekly Zoom meeting on Tuesdays from 10.30 – 11.30am. This is an opportunity to share experiences, practice and receive support from a member of the team. Follow the Zoom details to join: Meeting ID - 928 5803 9218 and Password – 286707

The **Charlie Waller Memorial Trust** have created a toolkit to help parents and carers recognise and understand **depression** and how to get help. You can call HOPELINEUK on 0800 069 4141 or view: <https://charliewaller.org/resources/guide-to-depression-for-parents-and-carers>

Transition



November would usually see both schools hosting 'open' events for parents of children due to enter Reception and Year 3 in September 2021. This year the infant school had hoped to offer pre-booked spaces at outdoor meetings with a maximum of 6 attendees. If you know anyone who would appreciate meeting/talking to one of our Reception teachers, please ask them to call the infant school to confirm what can now go ahead. A video is being made by the Junior school to showcase the offer at Woodland View. This will be available shortly on our website.

Safeguarding



Are you aware of Net Aware?

Net Aware is a brilliant guide to social networks, apps and games by the NSPCC and O2. With news, advice and resources (including checking age restrictions) you can feel really confident that you know, understand and can make the right choices for your child about what you allow them to play and do online. Visit: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

Staffing Update



The Infant school is very pleased to welcome Miss Balluza-Raia to the team. Miss Balluza-Raia will be working across Maple and Sycamore classes.

Websites



The websites of both schools are currently undergoing significant improvements. Work should be complete soon, but in the meantime if there is something you cannot find, please ask at either office. Thank you for your patience.

Attendance



We have been extremely lucky to have had an entire half term without any positive cases of COVID-19. Please continue to be vigilant and cautious. Absence directly linked to coronavirus is of course authorised and work will be provided should your child need to isolate for any period. Unfortunately absence due to parent choice and any holidays cancelled/re-booked due to the pandemic cannot be authorised.

Expect Respect



We know it is a worrying time for everyone right now, please can I take this opportunity to remind you that our staff are all doing their very best in these strange circumstances and appreciate you communicating with them with respect. Our Zero Tolerance policy is available on our website.

General Reminders



Please park considerately to our neighbours.
Please name all your child's items.
Please let us know if your details or circumstances change so we can contact you in an emergency.
Our schools are nut-free zones. Please do not include any items containing nuts in packed lunches.
Special diets can be catered for by either kitchen.
Please follow all COVID safety advice.

School Council



Mrs Heley is now leading the School Council across both schools. She will shortly be sending you more information. Both schools will be supporting Children in Need this year – look out for details to come including how to donate online.

Key Dates

Parent/Teacher meetings w/c 30th Nov
Last day of term: Friday 18th Dec



Phonic Screening – Y2

The Year 1 Phonic Screening cancelled due to lockdown must now be completed this half term. This is a government directive. This means that the current Year 2 children will have their phonic knowledge assessed in the coming weeks. Those current Year 3 children who did not reach the expected phonic standard in Year 2 will also complete the screening but these results are not required to be reported beyond the school. We aim to share the outcomes of this screening with parents at the parent/teacher meetings if possible.

Phonics