



Learning for Life

5th January 2022 Issue 15

Welcome back

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas and been able to enjoy the break with your families. It was lovely to see so many children return to school yesterday, keen to start the new term.

The key message that is coming from the government is to expect the next few weeks to be potentially very 'bumpy'. Whilst thankfully the evidence suggests that the new Covid variant is having a less harmful impact on those who catch it, as you will know it appears to be highly contagious and consequently spreading rapidly. For this reason, all schools have been asked to ensure that their protective measures are as tight as they can reasonably be, with the ultimate goal of keeping them open and avoiding the need to return to long-term remote learning. It continues to be the case that we will only close classes or year groups as a last resort and with the permission of either Devon County Council (for operational reasons) or Public Health (due to exceptionally high Covid numbers).

December was a testing month for our school with many staff and pupil absences for a number of reasons not just Covid. During my many discussions with Public Health and Devon Health and Safety before Christmas, it was reassuring to be told that as a school we were already doing above what was expected to try to keep our school community safe:

We continue to start and finish school, work and play in year group bubbles reducing the contact with other year groups as much as possible.

We continue to handwash or sanitise frequently during the day.

We continue to have an additional clean during the school day.

The classrooms are well ventilated and CO2 monitors are in place in each classroom.

Whole school assemblies take place by Zoom. Phase assemblies that were taking place before the arrival of the new variant were suspended before Christmas and continue to be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Staff continue to lateral flow regularly.

We continue to send pupils and staff home immediately they exhibit any Covid symptoms.

A number of parents have asked why they were not informed about individual cases in classes as we had been doing before the summer break. The guidance that we have been given is that we should no longer routinely contact parents to let them know about individual cases but send out 'warn and inform' letters when there are a number of cases in one year group.

We also appreciate the wonderful support you give the school by keeping your child home if they are unwell in any way but especially if they show any Covid symptoms.

Latest Guidance on self-isolation

If you or your child have any of these 3 symptoms of COVID-19, even if they are mild, self-isolate straight away and get a PCR test (a test that is sent to the lab) on GOV.UK as soon as possible:

a high temperature

a new, continuous cough

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

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 they do not have a high temperature, your child may end their isolation after the second negative test result and return to school from day 7.

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: www.willand.devon.sch.uk Email: admin@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk

Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com>

PE Timetable

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reception	✓	✓			
Y1HR		✓			✓
Y1P		✓	✓		
Y2A			✓	✓	
Y2R				✓	✓
Y3WB			✓ (swimming)		✓
Y3N				✓	✓ (swimming)
Y4C	✓	✓			
Y4W	✓		✓		
Y5ML	✓			✓	
Y5N			✓	✓	
Y6			✓		✓

Punctuality

Please can we remind you again that we need children to be at school punctually as many of the interventions take place first thing in the morning, as does phonics teaching for the younger classes.

Obviously if your child is ill, it is still important to keep them at home for the required time.

Dartmoor Residential Trip Payment Instalments

For those who have chosen to pay for the Year 6 Dartmoor residential trip in instalments, a reminder that the second payment is due on Thursday 13th January.

School Lunches

Just a reminder that due to the increase in food and gas prices the cost of a school lunch is now £2.40. If your child is in YR, Y1, Y2 they will still be entitled to the Universal Infant Free School Meals, which are free.

Lunch menu for week commencing 3rd January 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken Goujons	Italian Bolognese	Roast Beef & Yorkshire pudding	Mild Chicken Curry Naan Bread & Rice	Breaded Oven Baked Fish
<i>Quorn Dippers</i>	<i>Vegetarian Carbonara</i>	<i>Quorn sausage</i>	<i>Macaroni cheese</i>	<i>Vegetarian Quiche</i>
Rice or Pasta Sweetcorn Tomato Sauce	Pasta / Garlic bread Mixed Vegetables	Roast/Mash Potatoes Fresh Carrots Gravy	Green Beans	Chips/ Pasta Seasonal Vegetables Tomato Sauce
Jam sponge & custard	Lemon Cake	Fruit smoothie or cheese & crackers with apple slice	Blackcurrant jelly & tinned fruit	Iced sponge
PASTA POTS JACKET POTATOES				

Has your child had a new device for Christmas?

Many of your children will have received new devices for Christmas so it seems a good time to give a reminder of some resources that are available to help you to keep them safe.

Each games console, tablet, phone, etc. has different settings and so it can be confusing to know how to set up each device with safety controls but there are helpful guides available to support you with this.

The 'Internet Matters' website has instructions for a wide range of devices which you can choose from a drop-down menu (scroll down the page to find them). <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

One key measure to think about is where in the house children are using their devices; it's much easier to keep them safe if they are nearby. Also, if their device is fitted with a camera, do they always use it in a public space? Bear in mind that talking to your child about what they are doing online is the best thing you can do to help keep them safe. There are some great ideas to get you started here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/online-safety-activities-you-can-do-from-home/>

The NSPCC has some fantastic advice on keeping your children safe, and is well worth exploring: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>.

The CEOP website provides family activity sheets which have a selection of short conversation starters, practical tips and fun tasks to do as a family. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/home-activity-worksheets/>

As ever, if you have any questions or we can help in any way, please contact Mrs Maynard (Online Safety Co-ordinator) or Miss Leather (Safeguarding Lead).

Diary

SPRING TERM 2022	
10 February	Parent Consultations
15 February	Parent Consultations
21 – 25 February	Half Term
3 March	World Book Day
18 March	Red Nose Day
8 April	End Spring Term

Keep safe and keep well

Anne Hawkins

Headteacher

Contact us: Telephone: 01884 820367 / 829463 Website: www.willand.devon.sch.uk Email: admin@willand.devon.sch.uk
governors@willand.devon.sch.uk lunches@willand.devon.sch.uk absence@willand.devon.sch.uk

Online Payments: <https://login.schoolgateway.com>

Safeguarding - From time to time the school may need to make referrals to Children and Young People's Services