



Classteacher Golden Awards (6/11 and 13/11)

Year 1: Andrew; Cole
Year 2: Gracie; Harry
Year 3: -; -
Year 4: Sophie; Isaac
Year 5: Hayley;
Year 6: Miles; Josh

Headteacher Awards during this period have been given to Harry (Y2), Scarlet (Y2) and William S (Y6). Well done everyone!

Attendance

In the first week back after half-term, the winners were Y1 with 97.8% attendance; last week the winners were Y4 with 97.9% attendance. Our overall attendance so far since September is 97.4%, remarkably close to our target of 97.5%.

School meals

We are, at the time of writing, nine days into the resumption of our hot meals service at lunch time. Thanks to the work of our teachers, teaching assistants, kitchen and lunchtime staff, this has been really successful in terms of being able to serve hot meals to the children without them having to queue at the hatch. If you would like your child to resume school meals, please get in touch with Mrs Dearlove.

Y2 phonics screening checks

As our current Y2 children did not sit the statutory phonics screening check as usual in June, we have to administer it to them in this half-term. These checks usually take around ten minutes per child and will be individually administered by Mrs McMullen or Mrs Whincup on 24th and 26th November.

Punctuality

Please ensure you are dropping off and picking up your children at the appropriate times at the start and end of each day: this is always important, but even more so under the current restrictions we are having to operate within.

COVID update

We remain relatively unaffected by the increasing rates of infection in the local area and have, as yet, not had to close any classes in school. Thank you to everyone who is going the extra mile in ensuring that our protocols and procedures in school are working so well. We had a routine visit from Stockton Health & Safety and Stockton Public Health representatives last week and were given a clean bill of health in terms of our protocols and procedures in school that minimise risk for all members of our school community. We must not get complacent, however, as an increasing number of schools in the local area have been badly affected – it is therefore worth reminding everyone of the absolute importance of adhering to the ‘lockdown’ rules outside of school.

Please do not send your children in to school if they display any of the three official symptoms of COVID, even if you believe the symptoms are indicative of an unrelated ailment. The three symptoms are: an elevated temperature (Government define this as where the chest/back feel hot to the touch, although a temperature of 37.8°C or above remains a useful benchmark), a new persistent cough and/or a loss of taste/smell. A test should be sought at the earliest opportunity. **This also applies to any other member of the household if symptoms are evident: children should not be sent into school where a member of the household is symptomatic until a negative test result has been obtained for that household member.** We have seen - in other schools within Stockton - the enormous impact that disregarding this can have, with literally hundreds of children having to self-isolate as a result of symptomatic children/adults not following national guidance.

If you haven't already, could you please return any outstanding consent slips for the use of Seesaw: this will be the platform from which work will be set and marked if we have to put an entire class into self-isolation. Thank you.

Online payments system

As part of a gradual move away from cash coming in to school, Mrs Dearlove has been hard at work (as always) setting up our online payments system. Parents of Y3-Y6 children now have the facility to pay for school meals via this system and this will increasingly be used for the vast majority of payments in school. Cash can still be accepted, but we hope that the convenience of being able to pay for school meals, trips etc from your phone, laptop, tablet or computer will be of benefit to you all. Details have already been sent out to parents, but please contact Mrs Dearlove if you need any further information.

PTA updates

The PTA have been hard at work behind the scenes coming up with new ways of fundraising under the current restrictions – as the Summer Fair couldn't go ahead last year, funds are significantly depleted so please do try and support our fantastic PTA as much as you are able! One of our Governors works for BAM Construction and we have been given a defibrillator from BAM. Whilst this was primarily for school use, we have made the decision to make this available for community use and it will therefore be sited on the outside of the building. The PTA are raising funds for an outdoor defib cabinet with their 'Sponsored Race to Santa' so please support this where possible! Jason Taylor (of Taylor Electrical Services), a parent of a child in school, has offered to fit the cabinet for free, so the PTA are looking to raise funds purely for the purchase of the cabinet itself. The Christmas raffle will run on a different system this year, based on a 'bonus ball' system rather than having children buying physical tickets and we are pleased to be able to run the 'Elfridges' Secret Santa Shop in school on Friday December 11th, albeit with some differences due to COVID restrictions. Details of all the upcoming PTA activities will be given in a letter from the PTA to be sent out shortly.

Remembrance

Last week, it was a privilege to be on the KS2 yard when our Y4 and Y5 children observed an impeccable minute's silence on November 11th at 11am. Although our remembrance events have had to be severely curtailed due to COVID this year (I would usually attend the Stockton Garden of Remembrance in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday and then attend the Yarm Remembrance Service at Mary Magdalene on Remembrance Sunday itself), it still remains an important part of what we stand for as a school. Hopefully we will be in a position to resume our usual Remembrance events in 2021.

Dates for your diary

November

24/26 Y2 phonics screening checks

December

4 Y4 Egyptian Day

11 PTA Elfridges Shop

15 Y5 Level 1 Bikeability

16 Y6 Level 1 Bikeability

18 Break up for Christmas

January

4 Start of Spring Term 1

February

12 Break up for half-term

22 Start of Spring Term 2

March

26 Break up for Easter

April

12 Start of Summer Term 1

May

Y2 test period across May

3 May Bank Holiday – school closed

10-13 Y6 SATs week

17-19 Y6 residential at Robinwood

28 Break up for half-term

June

7 Start of Summer Term

7-11 Y1 phonics screening check week

7-25 Y4 multiplication check period

July

16 Break up for summer



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