



Headlines

Autumn Term Week 2

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Date: Friday 18th September

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What a week!

It's Friday and we have some tired children (and some even more tired adults!) But we've had a full week in school and it's been a wonderful week. Being able to walk around the building again and peek into classes; watch children working and answering their teachers' questions; enjoy PE and games outside in the fine weather with Kirk or Rick; and watch them get to grip with their first Forest School sessions with Ruth has been a pleasure.

Over the past few months there has been a great deal of media coverage about the potential impact of the school closures last March and I, like you, have been worried about the impact for our children. What will be the impact on our wellbeing and of our lost learning? And that's what we are working on finding out in the coming weeks. All classes have been working from the wonderful book *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers (I think there's a good animation of it too on one of the paid TV streaming services) and finding our way back into school routine. When the teachers have assessed where our gaps are, we will begin working hard to address them.

Next week I will confirm how and when we will be doing our parents evenings and teachers (if they haven't already by then) will inform you how your children are managing, both emotionally and with their learning.

Our class bubbles and protective measures

The use of hand sanitizer in school has improved the efficiency of the school no end—we have been able to save lots of valuable learning time by using a mixed hand wash and sanitising gel approach. As the children get used to the way our classes now have to run, they will be increasingly more comfortable I'm sure.

Thank you to you for working hard to keep social distance on the playgrounds and sticking to the staggered opening times. I know it is hard for some families who have children in different classes, so thank you for your patience. I guess it's going to get harder when the colder weather starts...

Please try to stick to your opening time—there's no need to be early, just on time. If your child's class door opens at 8:45, learning doesn't start until 8:55. Plenty of time to get in and ready. After school, please ask your children not to use the balance trails in the playgrounds. We work so hard to keep areas of the playground specifically for certain classes and we need to ensure that our bubbles do not cross whilst in school. We will be rotating the play areas over the coming weeks so children will (eventually) get the opportunity to use all the areas of the playgrounds.

What if the doors are shut?

If doors are shut in a morning when you arrive on time, don't worry. Wait patiently as our staff will be ferrying children to class. If you're late (which I'm sure you won't be!) please come to the front of school and ring the bell.

PE Kits and Forest school

Hopefully by now you know which days you are on! I know it was a little rushed for some of you, but I wanted to get these started as soon as possible in order that the children have as varied an experience at school as possible. If your child's class is yet to get Forest School sessions, don't worry. We will be running them for every class throughout the year (some will just have to be a little more patient than others!)

CV-19 tests and home learning if you are awaiting a test

If your child or a member of your household has displayed one of the three symptoms of Covid-19:

- High temperature
- A new continuous cough (coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)
- A loss or change to the sense of smell or taste.

... then they should not come to school. If you are unsure, please contact us to talk it through with us. Please be aware that we may have to send your child home if they display symptoms in school and that they will then need to access a test. If you notify us of your child's absence, your teacher will send home work that day. Please understand that it may be the end of the day as our teachers are busy in class. They will provide work for each day your child is off. We will launch our new remote learning platform at the end of September. Details to come soon.

Social Media

Don't forget to follow your child's class on Twitter—there are some wonderful images of children learning there. We continue to have issues with Facebook so are still often unable to post things on there at the moment.

White Vans

I have had no further contact from West Yorkshire Police, but I know many of you have expressed concerns over recent days. Please continue to talk to your children about safety if they walk home and not to leave the playground while they wait for you at collection time. There will always be members of staff around to help if needed. Needless to say, if anything happens or if anyone should approach your child or another child from school, encourage them to tell you immediately and contact the police.

Cliffe House and Robin Wood

Government guidelines have not been announced regarding residential visits for next term. Our Cliffe House and Robinwood trips are still going ahead at this moment until we are advised otherwise. Both trips are open on ParentPay and I suggest payments are made until this decision is confirmed. Full payment for Cliffe House is due mid February 2021 and Robinwood is mid December 2020. If either trip is cancelled, you will of course be given a full refund. We will keep you updated as we receive information.