

# Newsletter

## Autumn 3: November 2021



### Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an incredibly busy start to the second half of term and I felt very proud showing two Devon Education Advisers around school last week where they met our children and were able to look at learning taking place. As expected, the children were wonderful ambassadors for the school showing wonderful manners and general politeness and talking enthusiastically about their learning.

Like many schools across the country, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on staffing levels and the ability to book supply teachers to cover staff absences. We are working hard to maintain continuity as much as possible for all the children and thank you for your understanding at this time.

### Anti-Bullying week

This week is National Anti-Bullying Week and we will be joining schools across the country in promoting the 'One kind Word' theme. One way to raise awareness that we are all different is to wear odd socks on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. I apologise for the short notice as this newsletter is having to be sent later than expected. Children do not have to do anything special to buy anything new. If your child wears tights with their uniform, they could wear one sock on top of their tights on one leg or two odd socks! Our assemblies this week will focus on the Anti-bullying theme of 'One kind Word' which was also introduced to the children last week.



### Children in Need

Another important date in the calendar is **Children in Need on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

On Friday we will have a non-uniform day and ask that children wear brightly coloured clothes and hope that we can collect some donations to support this important cause. The Child in Need website suggests a donation of £1 but we are happy to accept any amount as we know that times are more challenging than ever for so many families. Most importantly it is another chance for us to celebrate the theme 'Together We can!' which underpins our school values and our approach to anti-bullying.

Because we continue to try to limit handling objects that come between school and home, we shall have a bucket on the school gate and ask that you drop any spare change into so it can be counted on another day.

### Parent Governors

Please see the flyer that is attached to this ParentMail with information about our drive to recruit Parent Governors to join our governing body.

## Keeping Safe

With Covid-19 rates across Devon and the South West remaining above the national average the Directors of Public Health have agreed precautionary measures should remain in place and will be kept under review. These include the following:

- **Household siblings** (secondary school age) **of confirmed cases are advised to take daily LFD** while awaiting PCR test results and to continue to attend school (unless test is positive). **This is also advised for primary school aged children but is at the discretion of the parent/guardian**
- Given high prevalence it is appropriate to **recommend daily LFD testing for all close contacts identified by NHS Test and Trace whilst individuals await their PCR results**
- If children are unwell they should stay at home until symptom free. If negative for COVID individuals should stay away from the setting until any fever is resolved. **Colds and other non-Covid symptoms are circulating but in the first instance symptoms should be treated as possible COVID and trigger isolation and testing.** This is the case even if others in the setting /group have tested negative for similar symptoms.
- Reduce mixing between groups of students as much as possible including consideration of pausing 'whole school' assemblies for the time being and any other 'large gatherings'.

Due to last bullet point, we have not reintroduced our larger school assemblies and unfortunately are reviewing our plans for Christmas celebrations and productions.

## Emergency contacts

As part of our Safeguarding measures and particularly relevant whilst we often need to contact parents and request children are collected at short notice if they present with COVID-19 symptoms, it is really important that we hold two emergency contacts for every child in school where reasonably possible. Please make sure you have provided us with any change in contact numbers which often arise during the seven years that most children are with us here at Decoy.

## Start of the school day

Please can I remind everyone that our gate will now be closing at 8:55am as this is the start of the school day. Any families arriving after this time due to unforeseen circumstances are asked to go to the main office to sign their children into school.

## New Website

Mr Ball has designed and created our new school website which is very accessible and makes it easy to find important information. We will be adding more information and photos as we move forward and I would encourage everyone to have a look at it. The website address is [www.decoyschool.co.uk](http://www.decoyschool.co.uk)  
Thank you Mr Ball.

## Additional Bank holiday

Due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday, schools need only provide 189 days of education during this academic year rather than 190. As the Jubilee Bank Holiday falls within the summer half term, we have been asked to nominate another day within the year in lieu. Our additional Bank Holiday will be on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 2022 just before the week of national celebrations.

Kind regards



Mrs H. Poustie, Headteacher