

# Newsletter

## Autumn 1 2021!



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable weekend and that your children are ready for another exciting week at school.

Here at Decoy Primary, we have reintroduced many of the routines that our older children will find familiar. We no longer need to keep children in 'bubbles' so at break times and lunchtimes we are able to have different year groups outside together. It is lovely to see the children mixing and this has started to bring the 'whole school community' feeling back to life.

We are however, due to Devon being an Enhanced Response Area, still being cautious and avoiding having large groups of children mixing inside together, such as for whole school assemblies. We will continue to review all of our arrangements so that we can keep everyone safe and still deliver the best education for our children.

I am currently having to work from home (lighter duties too!) but expect to be back in school by the end of this week. The whole staff team have, as expected, been fantastic in making sure everything continues to run smoothly and I know you will join me in thanking them for their professionalism and enthusiasm.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

Please remember that if your child has any of the COVID-19 symptoms they should get a PCR test and remain at home at least until the result is known. If negative, your child can end self-isolation; if positive, your child should isolate until at least 10 days after their symptoms appeared. Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). If your child has a positive test result but do not have symptoms, they should stay at home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date the positive test was taken. This isolation period will be extended if they go on to develop symptoms by counting 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for a PCR test (the normally available test type) and this can be arranged via [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/get-a-free-pcr-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)) or by calling 119.

**Please do not assume that symptoms are related to other medicals issues for example, that a cough is due to a late summer cold!**

### **Keeping Safe.**

As you are aware, the responsibility for contact tracing has changed. Parents/carers will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace if their child tests positive, to ask who they have had as close contacts. Please remember to ask your children about the adults that they have been in close contact with as well as the children – thank you for your help with this.

I also want to take this opportunity to encourage families to ensure that their children take a PCR test if they *are* identified as a close contact. They can continue to come to school whilst waiting to take the test and also whilst waiting for the result. They will only need to self-isolate if they too test positive.

### **PE kits**

It has been lovely to see the school hall being used for a range of learning activities including PE. I am really pleased to see that children are wearing the correct school PE kit – thank you.

### **PTA**

We are extremely fortunate to have a wonderfully creative and hard-working PTA who organise fantastic social events for children, adults as well as fundraising. Our PTA is a very important part of Decoy Primary and the shared community ethos. However, they can only continue to thrive if they are able to welcome new members each year. I can assure you that they are a very friendly group and will make everyone welcome, so why not join them tomorrow at the Barn Owl for their AGM to find out more. Having attended their meetings, I know that the social element is a key part of the meeting as well as the 'business' items on the agenda!



### **Governor nominations**

I recently sent out information about governor nominations. This is a crucial role in schools and we are keen to encourage interest from our parents and carers. Please do take time to look through the information and feel free to contact me via the school office if you have any questions whilst considering whether to stand for nomination as a parent governor.

### **Dates for the diary**

We are finalising some important dates for the rest of the coming year and will share them with you soon so that you can make arrangements to join us for those special moments such as school plays, sports days etc.

I am really looking forward to being back in school this coming Thursday and seeing so many of our families at the start and end of the day again. In the meantime – stay safe!

Kind regards



Mrs H. Poustie, Headteacher