



19th October 2021

Dear Parents

As we approach the half way point of the Autumn Term, I felt it would be useful to bring you up to speed in a few areas.

The Current COVID situation

Recently Public Health Cornwall sent a letter out to all schools in the county. This was in response to the continued disruption caused by case numbers in schools. Their advice was to,

- 1) Consider the reintroduction of 'bubbles' to reduce the possibility of transmission
- 2) Wear face coverings in communal areas
- 3) Continued use of hand sanitiser and social distancing where possible

Many other counties around the nation have since sent out the same advice in an attempt to keep as many staff and pupils free from infection and thereby in school.

Here at Otterham we are being sensible and not having a 'knee jerk' reaction to this guidance. If we were to get a positive case **within** the school or cases locally reach a significantly high number, this is the point at which we would act. We are very grateful to the families who have recently been experiencing COVID, for keeping their children at home while adults were infected. The DfE guidance states that in these circumstances children should be sent to school. If you/we had followed that guidance then we would have many more cases and a possible domino effect.

With this advice and situation in mind, conversations have started to be had about what our Christmas celebrations may look like this year. Whilst we are all conscious of giving the children the opportunity to perform in a play/nativity, a gathering of the school community could end with the result of a very different Christmas for many people. (A play is something for us to consider during the Summer Term). If we remain COVID free there are many activities that can still take place for the children. The Friends have booked Magic Martin and the staff are thinking of other ideas in addition to the usual Christmas Lunch and parties. I am sure a Nativity Scene Tableaux could also be arranged for the obligatory EYFS/KS1 photo. Rest assured the staff here will make every effort to make Christmas a special time for all.

Parental Consultations

Thank you for the extremely high attendance figures for parental consultations. It was good to hear the positive feedback from yourselves. We hope that you found the meetings useful and you feel you have the information necessary to support your child with their learning.

Harvest

Staff have been talking to the children about Harvest and the importance of being aware of how the food that we eat reaches our plates. There are a range of people who deserve our gratitude and currently, a number of areas of the food production industry that are making the news. Your children enjoy discussing such current affairs.

There is a collection box in each class for tinned and dried goods so that we can make a donation to our local food bank.

Continued/

Black History Month/Show Racism the Red Card

Although I feel that the teaching of Black History should not be restricted to just one month, October has the honour of such a title. Your children have been discussing what this means and also the subject of racism. The simple question, 'What is Racism?' sparks quite a conversation.

On Friday 22nd October (last day of term) we are inviting the children to wear red to recognise and support the movement, 'Show Racism the Red Card'. There is a suggested donation of £1 which will be given to this educational charity to help them in their quest to,

Change Hearts, Change Minds, Change Lives

This will essentially become a non-uniform day but with the proviso of wearing red.

School Meals

When we return to school after half term, on the 1st of November, it will be a new menu. Please remember to order in advance for all of your children. If your child is off school for any reason, please remove their dinner order to avoid being charged unnecessarily.

As always, any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kindest regards

Helen Ward