

23rd June 2021

Dear Parents,

Our new Learning Adventure is now well under way, and began with all year groups visiting the school woodlands to discover that it had been remarkably transformed into 'The Forest of Inspiration'. Upon entering the forest, the children discovered a trail of pebbles with pictures on, which led them to different areas to explore, this included 'The Pathway of Poetry', 'The Clearing of Creativity', 'The Wishing Walkway' and 'The Circle of Stories'. Within the different areas, they discovered a host of poems, art works and wishes, which gave clues about 'The Forest of Inspiration' - there was a king and queen, a hidden castle, some very creative children and even some 'splendid creatures' - but they had all disappeared! In response to their visit, the children discussed their ideas about 'The Forest of Inspiration', and decided the next steps they would take, as they prepared to take part in this exciting adventure. Over the coming half term, the children will explore a range of curriculum areas linked to 'The Forest of Inspiration', including creative writing, Art and Design and PSHE. We will keep you updated with the exciting learning activities that children will be taking part in over the coming weeks.

As you are aware, following the recent government announcement that step 3 restrictions will remain in place for a further period of time and with the increasing infection rates, unfortunately parents will no longer be able to join us for the children's forthcoming sports afternoons. The year group sports afternoons will continue to go ahead for the children as planned, providing the opportunity for them to enjoy participating in a range of sports activities. We realise some of you may be disappointed, however, the health and safety of the school community is paramount. Mr Hancock and staff are hoping to be able to compile some photographs of each year group event, which will be made available via Microsoft Teams. Your continued support and understanding is appreciated.

Please continue to keep to the school's staggered system for school drop off and collection times, including the use of the one-way system on the playground, maintaining appropriate social distancing, utilising a face mask/cover during drop off and collection times [unless you have a pre-existing health condition] and ensuring only one person accompanies your child to school. If you have any messages for your child's teacher, please contact them via the school office email, rather than relaying messages on the door in the morning - this will help to ensure that the staggered timings work effectively and help to keep everyone safe. Your continued support and cooperation is appreciated.

School Photographs

Recently the children had their individual school photographs taken in our lovely grounds. The children have now taken the proofs home to you. If you wish to order photographs, please order direct from Fraser Portraits, online at <https://orderphotos.co.uk/welcome> by Monday 28th June.

Annual Reports and Parent Consultations

On Monday 12th July, the children will bring home their annual reports. If you wish to discuss your child's report, you will be able to make an appointment to talk to your child's teacher/s, who has set aside time on Tuesday 13th July, Wednesday 14th July and Thursday 15th July. Telephone appointments using the online electronic booking system will be available early in July. Each telephone appointment will be allocated a 10 minute slot. There will be a short gap between appointments to enable staff to ring the next person. Staff will endeavour to keep to time and ring you as close to your time slot as possible. Our teaching team look forward to talking to you soon.

Transfer Day

The school has been advised that many local middle schools will now not be holding the forthcoming scheduled transfer day for Year 4 children. We understand that middle schools have contacted parents directly. It is hoped that children in Foundation and Years 1, 2 and 3 will meet their new teachers prior to the end of the summer term. Further information about year group arrangements will follow in due course.

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Department of Education: Primary School Children and Rapid Asymptomatic Testing

On advice from Public Health England [PHE], children in primary schools have not been included in the rapid asymptomatic testing programme. Recently, the Department of Education have updated their information to indicate that parents may wish to consider whether to test asymptomatic children under the age of 11. The DfE information states that 'Advice from Public Health England is that there is currently limited public health benefit from testing primary school age children with lateral flow devices (LFDs). Primary school age children may find the LFD testing process invasive and unpleasant and are unable to self-swab.'

If a child or a member of your household develops potential symptoms of Coronavirus you should continue to follow the [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#) and [book a PCR test](#) for the child. **Rapid LFD tests should not be offered to individuals who develop coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, regardless of their age.**

Confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction [PCR] Testing for Positive Lateral Flow Device [LFD] Tests

Please note that a confirmatory PCR test is required for anyone receiving a positive LFD test. The PCR test should be booked immediately either [online](#) or by calling 119 and should be undertaken within 2 days. Anyone who had a positive LFD test result and other members of their household, should self-isolate immediately in line with [NHS Test and Trace guidance](#) and while awaiting the PCR test result. If the PCR test is negative, it overrides the LFD test and the person and their close contacts can then end their self-isolation.

Coronavirus [Covid-19] Guidance

Please remember that if your child or any member of the household have symptoms of coronavirus infection [COVID-19], **however mild**, you will all need to stay at home for 10 days from when the symptoms started. The most common symptoms of coronavirus [COVID-19] are:

- **High temperature [feels hot to touch on the back or chest – a temperature of 37.6 degrees and above]**
- **New continuous cough [this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)]**
- **Loss or change to your normal sense of smell or taste [anosmia]**

More details of the symptoms can be found: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

It is important that anyone with symptoms is tested. If your child presents with Covid-19 symptoms, they will not be able to come to school and you should book a test. A PCR test can be booked or ordered online via NHS UK, using the following link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/>

It is essential that the school is advised of the test outcome. Where the child or staff member tests negative, they can return to school, if they are well enough, and the fellow household members can end their self-isolation. If there is a confirmed case in school, it may be necessary for other children/groups of children and staff to isolate at home. We will work closely with Public Health England who will advise us of the course of action.

If your child appears to present with any of these symptoms when they are in school, we will contact you and you will be advised to follow the [COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection guidance](#).

You can seek further medical advice from NHS 111 and you can also use the Department for Education coronavirus helpline, which is available to answer questions about COVID-19 on T: 0800 046 8687. The helpline is open between 8am to 6pm (Monday to Friday) and 10am to 4pm (Saturday to Sunday).

The school will endeavour to remain open, however, if there are confirmed case/s or insufficient safe staffing levels, the school may have to close or partially close for a period of time. The school will keep parents updated with any decisions by parentmail as soon as they can. If in the event that children have to self-isolate at home or that our school has to be partially/closed, teaching staff will provide home learning for each child/year group via Microsoft Teams.

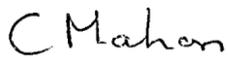
School Office and Messages for Staff

A reminder that **the school office is only partially open to parents and visitors and we ask that you refrain from visiting the school office wherever this can be avoided. In the first instance, we request that all communications are made via email or phone to the school office**, including any messages for your child's teacher. A telephone appointment to speak with a member of staff will be made for you if necessary. If you need to visit the school office for essential reasons [or if agreed with a member of the school office], the entrance area has been marked with physical/social distancing demarcations and there is a taped line by the office window to ensure the appropriate social/physical distance is in place. In the office foyer, there are two boxes/containers, one for paperwork, such as, letters/permission slips, and one for objects/parcels. Entrance to other areas of the school will not be permitted, unless by prior agreement/appointment. We would be grateful if you could wear a face mask/covering when visiting the school office, unless you have a medical exemption.

Finally

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and cooperation. By working together, we hope that we can ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our whole school community. The school will continue to keep you updated as more information is available.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Mahon
Headteacher