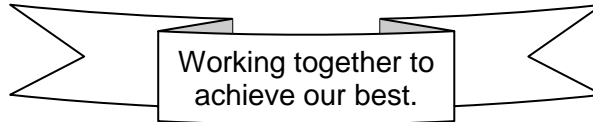




Newsletter

Issue No.4
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Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

Governors: Adam Campbell, Fran Sherry, Jon Wilson, Louise Haigh, Annette Anderson, Jason Manley, John Ashley and Joanna Milne

Dear parents/carers,

Pine Children

Firstly, I would like to thank the Pine parents for their understanding following the positive case of coronavirus in Reception class and to our staff at school for the additional support they have provided with covering particular areas, following the start of the self-isolation period.

We hope that the home learning information sent home has been useful and that children are enjoying accessing some of it. If you can regularly access the RWI videos / learning activities as directed, that would be of immense benefit to the children in helping to ensure that their reading development continues. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

We really miss our YR children and we can't wait to see them back on **October 12th**.

I attach some more information which will hopefully give you a clear explanation regarding self-isolation and answer any questions you may have relating to this.

This afternoon, you should have received a story by email for each one of the Pine classes and we hope all our Acorns and Conkers enjoy listening to them.

Covid 19 FAQ sheet for parents / carers

With this newsletter (and on our [Coronavirus Page](#)– under the 'Parents' tab on our website) is our new 'Covid 19 FAQ sheet for parents/carers', which we have created using all the public health advice / Government guidance we are following.

We have received many questions from parents / carers recently and we are hoping this sheet will provide useful guidance over the coming weeks.

Organisation of 'Bubbles' in School

In the light of the need to ask all the YR children to self isolate for 14 days, I thought it would be useful to give an update to parents on how we are trying to manage the difficult situation where we have to some times balance safety considerations and the practical issues in delivering the curriculum successfully.

The table below gives some indication of the way we are organising things in school and should hopefully be a useful guide for parents:

Organisation of 'Bubbles' at The Firs		
Year Group	Bubble Structure	Notes
Saplings	Children one Saplings bubble	The nature of the EYFS curriculum and the age of the children makes it very difficult to structure learning in anything other than whole group bubbles as children need to access all areas of the play environment in order to meet their personal and play needs.
Pine (YR)	Children in one Pine bubble	
Y1	Children in separate Holly and Maple class bubbles	Children in Year 1 are learning using a 'temporary hybrid' version of RWI taught in separate classes. The children use separate playgrounds at play and lunchtime. They eat their lunch in the classroom and have separate toilet facilities.

Y2	Children in separate Cedar and Beech class bubbles*	<p>Children in Y2 have been working as one year group bubble up to today (2/10/20). This was to facilitate the delivery of RWI, which we felt was beneficial due to the needs of this cohort. In the light of the case of Coronairus in YR however, we are changing to make the bubbles separate from Monday 5th October:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>From 5/10/20</u></p> <p>Children in Year 2 will learn in separate bubbles. There will be 4 RWI groups for each class bubble. Children will do RWI 3 days a week. On the other two days, Y2 children will do Y2 literacy lessons, in their classroom, with their class teacher. The children use separate playgrounds at play and lunchtime. They eat their lunch in the classroom. Cedar keep their coats on their chairs in the classroom. Cedar class will enter and exit through their fire door, whereas Beech will use the Y2 building entrance and corridor. Beech will continue to use the Y2 cloakroom for coats. Toilet facilities will be labelled for each class and used separately. Cedar will have access to sinks in the 'wet room' between the two Y2 classrooms. Beech will have access to 3 of the 4 sinks in the Y2 cloakroom area. The two classes will introduce various systems to reduce any mixing between bubbles e.g. staggered returns from lunchtime etc.</p>
Y3	Children in separate Hazel and Elm class bubbles	<p>Children in Year 3 are learning in separate bubbles. The children use separate playgrounds at play and lunchtime. They eat their lunch in the classroom. Hazel use a mobile coat rack in their classroom to hang coats. Hazel class enter and exit through their fire door, whereas Elm use the Y3 building entrance and corridor. Elm use the Y3 cloakroom for coats. Toilet facilities are labelled for each class and used separately. The two classes have various systems in place to reduce any mixing between bubbles.</p>
Y4	Children in separate Oak and Willow class bubbles	<p>Children in Year 4 are learning in separate bubbles. The children use separate playgrounds at play and lunchtime. They eat their lunch in the classroom and have separate toilet facilities.</p>
Kids' Club	Children in Year Group bubbles	<p>The 3 large rooms used by Kids' Club have all been divided in 2 so that in each room 2 year groups can use the space separately. This means that if a child has a positive test in one of these Kids' Club year group bubbles all the children in that bubble from both classes would have to self-isolate.</p>

Y4 Swimming

We normally take Y4 for their swimming sessions in the autumn term. This year however we have encountered some concerns / problems with attempting to schedule this e.g.

- The need for children to be in their swimming costumes all morning as we are not having children change on site and neither is Flitwick Leisure Centre
- Difficulties around staffing due to the higher demand on staffing to manage all the different 'bubbles' in operation
- Risk of not being able to deliver all sessions if further Coronavirus cases impact on 'bubbles' and linked staff in school during the 2nd half of the autumn term.

Year 4 swimming lessons have therefore been rescheduled to after half term in the spring.

The first session will be 1:30 until 2:00pm and the second session will be 2:00 until 2:30pm on Wednesday afternoons. This will mean that we will be back at school in time for both classes going home. We will organise any issues regarding lunch so that children have plenty of time to eat before they go.

The sessions will begin on 24th February and end on 24th March.

We realise that some Y4 children may be disappointed that they have to wait for their sessions but we are hoping that there will be less risk that they will be disrupted with the new arrangements.

Y4 Grafham Water Update

Current Government advice is that whilst day trips are acceptable, schools should not be undertaking residential visits.

For this reason we have been in discussion with Grafham Water and we have arranged that our outdoor adventure experience be converted into two day visits for this academic year. We realise that the children will not get the chance to participate in the opportunities presented by the residential elements but it will mean that they experience all the same activities that they would have done.

We will be using the Thursday 18th March and Friday 19th March that we already had booked. We will need two coaches to keep the class bubbles separate and the groups will be organised in the same way. Despite the extra cost for transport however, it will mean that the costs are less overall.

We will be writing to Y4 parents with more information and details of the arrangements to pay for the Grafham visits but we wanted to share this information with you and the Y4 children now, because we realise how important this is to everyone in Y4 being a highlight of the year!

Yours sincerely,

