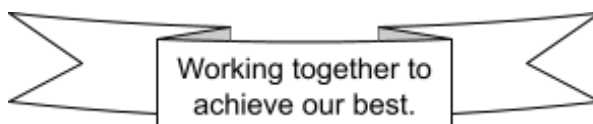




Newsletter

Issue No 7
Date 28th May, 2021
www.firslower.co.uk



Chair of Governors: Gareth Jones

Governors: Annette Anderson, John Ashley, Franco Cameli, Adam Campbell, Louise Haigh, Kerry Mercer, Fran Sherry and Tom Stean.

Covid 19 Updates from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

The school has been asked to pass on an update from Central Bedfordshire about the current situation locally with regards to Covid 19. In addition to the information here there is an accompanying letter and two flow charts with this newsletter. This information is also on the Coronavirus page of our website.

Schools have been informed that cases of the new COVID-19 variant first identified in India have recently been identified in Central Bedfordshire.

Evidence suggests that this variant spreads more easily than previous strains. In nearby Bedford, cases of this variant are increasing, and there has been a rapid rise in cases overall, particularly amongst children and young people.

CBC are working closely with Public Health England to investigate the cases and will undertake additional testing where this is appropriate.

Around 1 in 3 people do not have symptoms of COVID-19; increased testing will help to find other cases and to limit the spread of this disease.

The latest guidance from the Director of Public Health for Central Bedfordshire is that **schools should continue to use all preventative measures, including face coverings**, to help to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 cases in Central Bedfordshire. This change has been approved nationally.

We have been asked particularly by CBC to share the following information:

1. **All identified close contacts of positive cases should self-isolate and now book a PCR test as soon as possible at:** <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119

PLEASE NOTE THAT, EVEN IF THE RESULT OF THAT PCR TEST IS NEGATIVE, ALL CLOSE CONTACTS WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO SELF-ISOLATE FOR THEIR FULL 10 DAYS.

2. **Continue to be vigilant for symptoms of Covid-19**

Please be vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19; all adults and young people should stay at home if unwell, self-isolate and book a PCR test as soon as possible, as above.

3. **Continue to participate in regular LFD testing**

Everyone over the age of 11 in Central Bedfordshire is encouraged to continue twice weekly testing. There are [test centres](#) across Central Bedfordshire for people to get tested, which can provide results usually within 30 minutes. Tests can also be collected from [test centres](#), from [local pharmacies](#) or ordered for [home delivery](#).

If anyone has had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 **within the previous 90 days**, they are likely to have developed some immunity. **Individuals are, therefore, exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive PCR test unless they develop new symptoms.**

4. **All adults who are eligible for vaccination, should [book their vaccination](#) promptly** or visit the local Clinical Commissioning Group [website](#) for details of drop-in sessions.

Changes to The Firs Roadmap

As you will be aware, we were intending to relax a lot of the measures currently in place after half term.

With the case we have had recently in school however, coupled with the increasing number of Covid 19 cases in Central Bedfordshire and especially in Bedford (see section above) we have decided to delay the relaxing of the majority of these restrictions.

Therefore, as the revised **Exiting Restrictions Roadmap** - (attached with this newsletter) sets out, we will be continuing very much as we are after half term.

The 1st relaxing of restrictions is therefore scheduled to take place on 28th June. We will review where we are locally as well as the status of the National Roadmap nearer the time and of course, we will keep everyone updated.

Staff in Y3 and Y2 are currently communicating with the organisers of the History of The Page visits we were planning for after half term and looking into the possibility of converting them to virtual events. We will update Y2 and Y3 parents about this after half term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our children, parents / carers and staff for the way everyone has supported our efforts during this time, working together to keep everyone safe.

Willow Class

We wanted to say a special 'hello' to Willow Class. We are really missing you all very much and hope that you are all keeping well. We look forward to seeing you all again after half term.

PTA Pirate Ship Competition

The PTA Pirate Ship competition has been extended until Friday 11th June. Please can all entries be in by this date - thank you for your support.

Competition

The link below takes you to the information about how parents and staff can enter the school into a competition to win £5,000 worth of books. There is no cost to you and your support with this would be very gratefully received.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

Non-Uniform day for George

You may have seen on social media recently that a local young boy has been diagnosed with an incurable grade 4 aggressive brain tumour. There is however a pioneering procedure being developed in Germany which at worst will give his family extra time with him.

A parent has made us aware of this and in the spirit of our caring approach, we wanted to share this with you so that we can all help support such a good cause in our community.

As a school, we would like to join with the many other local schools who are supporting this fundraising effort and so we will be holding a non-uniform day on **Friday 11th June** when we will be collecting donations on the gates in the morning. All monies raised will go to 'The Gorgeous George, One Big Fight' appeal.

If you would like to make your own personal donation, then please click on the link below .

[Go fund me link](#)

Class and Y4 Leavers Photographs

The photographer will be in school on **Friday 18th June** to take the class and Y4 leavers photographs. Please can you ensure that your child has their school jumper with them for the photograph - thank you. We realise that because of the current restrictions we cannot have all the year group together but, the photographer will photograph the classes separately and this will show the classes side by side on the proof.

Individual Photographs.

The photograph orders should be in school after half term and will be sent home with your child.

Parent Survey

Sustrans are launching another **parent survey** for anyone with children at a Central Bedfordshire school. Please click on the link below if you would like to take part. Participants will be entered into a prize draw to win a bike or bike voucher.

<https://sustrans.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/central-beds-schools-parent-survey-2021-copy>

I hope you all have a good half term and we look forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday 7th June.

Yours sincerely,



Adam J G Campbell
Headteacher