



Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to start this final newsletter of the year by paying tribute to the children during this term. They have been nothing short of a sensation. They and the staff make every day at our school something wonderful to be part of through enthusiasm, joy, resilience, kindness and teamwork. The children have achieved so many things during this term from performing in a wonderful Nativity to going swimming with their class or learning to sew as well as making super progress in all areas of the English, maths and wider curriculum. One of the greatest joys has been the buzz of excitement there has been around reading, books in certain series and discovering new and exciting authors. I love the fact that our youngest children are making so much progress in learning to read and as children move through school they are reading to learn. Hopefully Santa will bring some lucky children some new and exciting books? Thank you also for your on-going support during this period at school. It is greatly valued by myself and all the staff. We hope all members of the school community have a happy and safe Christmas.

Parent Governor Election

I am sure that parents enjoyed reading the statements from all candidate's and we thank all candidates for the time they have devoted to prepare for this and also for showing an interest in the position. After the counting of the votes, it was very close between Chris Skelton and Lisa Briggs and we have therefore taken the decision to appoint both Chris and Lisa as parent governors. We look forward to them joining our excellent governing body in the New Year.

The section below outlines some considerations for the Spring Term in light of the arrival of the Omicron Variant.

Covid-19

Unfortunately, with the arrival of the Omicron Variant, there is greater uncertainty about what January and February will bring. As we are not in school for the two weeks, all schools in the James Montgomery Academy Trust have planned to return in January with the safety of all at the forefront of our minds as well as the children's continued learning development. Of course, as the government themselves do, we will keep all safety measures under review so that we lift them as soon as it is safe to do so to enable the children to access greater freedoms in school life. The main safety measures are listed below:

- School attendance remains mandatory for all primary age children as face-to-face learning is so important and something we want to protect as far as possible.
- The school risk assessment has been updated and is available on the school website.
- Infection control and ensuring positive cases isolate for the correct period.
- Families and school staff to be vigilant in relation to the three main symptoms.
- Following the guidance of test and trace in relation to identified contacts with positive cases.
- Enhanced handwashing, cleaning of classrooms and toilets.
- Good ventilation provided in each classroom which is checked with Co2 monitors.
- For children to be in class bubbles for inside learning and eating dinners.
- All school assemblies will take place in class during week 1 and this will be reviewed during that week as it is clear what the present situation is.
- Children to continue to have an allocated toilet for their class.
- Minimise the amount of different staff working inside class bubbles and when this is required for these staff to wear visors or masks in class.
- Staff will continue to wear masks in all communal areas inside and outside school.

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- Parents asked to wear masks at drop-off and pick-up times to minimise transmission.
- Parents to socially distance on the school site and only remain on site for the shortest amount of time necessary.
- Contingency arrangements remain in place if there are a high amount of cases in a particular class during a 10 day period to increase the safety of the children and staff in school and lessen the spread.
- If your child tests positive for Covid-19 and the date of their isolation continues to 04.01.22, please email the school email address which is school@wce.jmat.org.uk.

Regardless of what happens in January 2022, I know the staff will continue to do everything and more to support the children both socially and educationally and extend that support to wider families when required.

Yours sincerely

Mr Beevor
Headteacher