



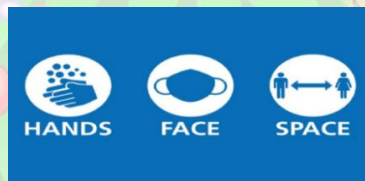
End of Term Newsletter December 2020



The past 10 months have been very challenging. I can assure you we fully recognise the impact this has had on our parents/carers and, in particular, on our pupils/students. Our staff, as well, have been impacted by the change in their own family circumstances and working conditions.

We have tried to mitigate this impact by putting measures in place to reduce the spread of the virus and ensure the safety of the whole school community and I sincerely hope that you all understand why this has been necessary.

Whilst we can now see some light at the end of the tunnel, with the anticipated roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine, until such time as it is safe to relax measures, we will continue to have all of our procedures in place. Should there be any changes to the guidance over the school break, which leads to changes to our risk assessment, we will inform you all via ClassDojo and the school website.



In January, we expect all pupils and students, other than those who receive shielding letters, to attend. The Government's message that children should be in school is clear and we, at Foreland Fields School, agree that returning to school is vital for children's education and for their wellbeing. Should any parent/carer have concerns about their child returning after the Christmas break, please speak to us.

Rapid Testing for Schools and Colleges

We have recently been made aware that every secondary school and college in England, as well as special schools, will have access to rapid Coronavirus testing from January. It has been stated by the DfE that all staff in secondary schools and colleges will also be eligible for weekly rapid tests.

The tests will not, on their own, eradicate the risk of COVID-19, however if used in combination with other vital infection prevention control measures, i.e. washing hands regularly and social distancing, they are another tool to help keep our community safer.

We are awaiting news on the roll-out dates, plus how these will be administered, and will obviously keep you all informed.

Positive COVID-19 Reporting over the Christmas Holidays

Public Health England have asked that schools provide a 6-day window after the final day of teaching (18th December) in which schools and further education providers are asked to remain contactable so they can assist with contact tracing. This will allow enough time for positive Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases to be identified and confirmed by a test, and for relevant contacts in the school to be traced and notified.

Up to and including 24th December, should any pupil/student test positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school (that is - up to Sunday 20th December), can we ask that parents/carers inform us by email in order that we can liaise with Public Health England and inform any close contacts that they need to self-isolate.

Parents/carers should inform us via the generic email account: foreland@foreland.kent.sch.uk. This email account will be monitored on a daily basis between the hours of 3pm and 4pm. **Could we ask that parents inform us of the date that their child first developed COVID-19 symptoms or, in the event of them being asymptomatic, the date the test was administered.**

Parents/carers of any child identified as a close contact will receive notification via ClassDojo or email, up to and including 24th December. This will include a letter notifying them of the required period of isolation and links to Government guidance.

Please note, parents/carers are not required to inform us if a pupil/student tests positive having developed symptoms more than 48 hours after being at school (specifically after Sunday 20th December). Parents/carers should instead liaise with NHS Test and Trace.

Local Infection Rates – Testing

It is recognised that infection rates, particularly amongst 11-18 year-olds, are rising rapidly in this area. Last weekend, the regional and local testing centres opened up to allow asymptomatic pupils and their families and school staff to have COVID-19 tests.

Whilst this testing is not mandatory, we are encouraging parents/carers, their children their families and our staff to get tested. Full information about how to access this testing can be found on ClassDojo and the school website.

This initiative was introduced to test asymptomatic individuals, therefore when booking a test parents/carers should follow these steps:

- When asked “does the person who needs a test have Coronavirus symptoms? – click **no** (unless they have symptoms))
- When asked “is the person who needs a test part of a trial or government pilot project? - click **yes**
- When asked “tell us which pilot or trial it is” – click **“the person is taking part in community testing”**.

Wheelability - Minnis Bay

We are starting to work closely with the Wheelability organisation and hope to do so even more in the future.

As part of this relationship we have arranged for this facility to be available for free to families of Pupils from Foreland Fields School.

If you are interested, please call 07718 485266 or email wellbeing@yourleisure.uk.com to find out more.

The Wheelability web page can be found at: <http://yourleisure.uk.com/wheelability/>



Kent Literacy Awards

The Kent Literacy Awards ceremony was held virtually on Friday 11th December. We were nominated in the best Speaking and Listening category for our Explorers' curriculum sensory sessions. I am really pleased to announce that we won! Huge congratulations to everyone who was involved in planning and delivering these sessions and huge thanks to Nikki Gray for nominating us for the award.



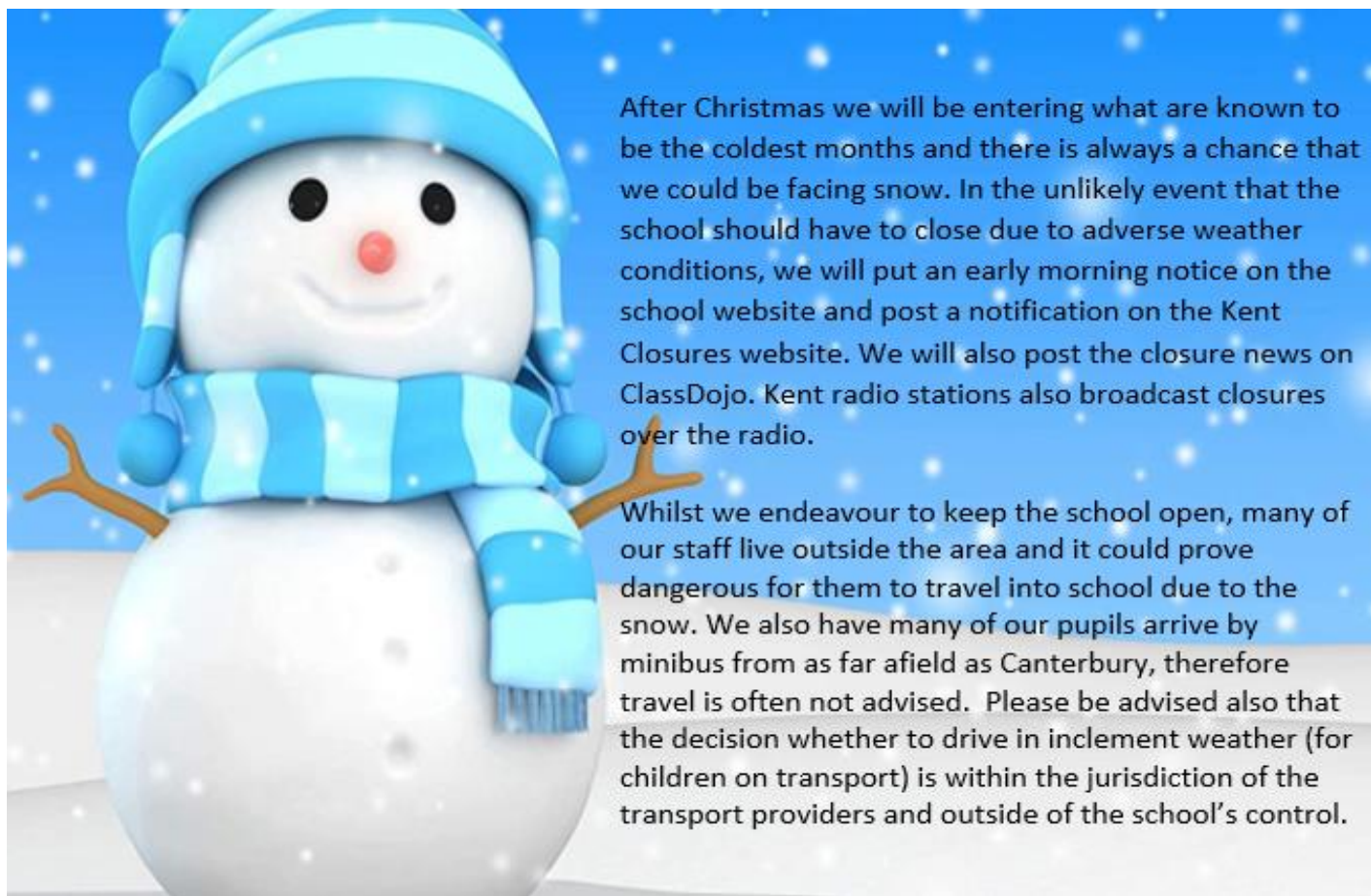
Stephanie Park, Andy Tuffs and Grace Martin with the Kent Literacy award nomination.



Diwali Dance Workshops

Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Light. It celebrates the victory of good over evil and the homecoming of Rama and Sita, after the defeat of the demon Ravana. Students on our Pioneers' Pathway took part in online workshops to retell the story of Rama and Sita through dance. The students learnt some "Hastra mudras", which are hand positions used in classical Indian dancing to help to communicate the story.

Procedures for School Closure



After Christmas we will be entering what are known to be the coldest months and there is always a chance that we could be facing snow. In the unlikely event that the school should have to close due to adverse weather conditions, we will put an early morning notice on the school website and post a notification on the Kent Closures website. We will also post the closure news on ClassDojo. Kent radio stations also broadcast closures over the radio.

Whilst we endeavour to keep the school open, many of our staff live outside the area and it could prove dangerous for them to travel into school due to the snow. We also have many of our pupils arrive by minibus from as far afield as Canterbury, therefore travel is often not advised. Please be advised also that the decision whether to drive in inclement weather (for children on transport) is within the jurisdiction of the transport providers and outside of the school's control.

The Dream Catcher

Ten classes across the school watched 'The Dream Catcher', an interactive show with added communication visuals to incorporate the needs of all pupils. A BSL communicator was also present throughout the show. The organisers encouraged viewers to have props prepared to make it an immersive sensory experience. The pupils could tickle with feathers and explore cooking ingredients to fully participate in the pantomime style show. A virtual party was held at the end, where pupils were encouraged to wear party hats and blow party blowers. A fun and interactive experience enjoyed by all.



Illness

Many of our pupils and students are vulnerable to infections which can spread quickly at this time of year. Remember, your child should be kept away from school for 48 hours from the last period of sickness and/or diarrhoea.

Details from Public Health England about infectious diseases and exclusion periods can be found on the school website or through the following link:



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

hello.
goodbye.

Whilst this is a time for celebration, it is always sad to say goodbye to staff who are leaving us.

It is a very sad time for all of us at the school, but especially the Senior Leadership Team, as **Deborah Doyle**, who is PA to the Headteacher and Deputies, is retiring. Deborah's dedication to the school is immeasurable. As well as being a much loved colleague, Deborah is also a true friend. I cannot imagine how I would have coped over the past 5 years without her unwavering support.

Deborah will be succeeded by **Tracey Charlesworth** who many of you will know as she was previously the EHCP administrator. We look forward to working with Tracey after the Christmas break.

Lyn Faber has provided teaching cover at the school since February. Lyn's arrival coincided with the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic and Lyn's ability to adapt to whatever came her way was commendable. We will all miss Lyn and wish her luck in her future ventures.

Pam Dannell, who provided outreach support to local mainstream schools as part of the Foreland Fields Inclusion Support Service (FISS), will be leaving us at Christmas. I would like to thank Pam for her ongoing support for pupils across the district and wish her the best of luck in all her future ventures.

Clare Whitehead, who was manager of FISS, secured the post of Key Stage 3 Leader of Learning and will be taking up the post in January. I am really excited to have Clare working as part of our leadership team – she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Clare Grant, who provided admin support for the outreach service, will be leaving Foreland Fields to carry out a similar role at Laleham Gap School. We wish her well in her new school.

We have also said goodbye over the past month to Lisa Bishop and Hannah Eames who were both midday meal supervisors. Again, I would like to thank them for their support during their time at the school.

Over the past few months we have welcomed Laura Amans, Victoria Barlow, Kerry Mcoustra and Suzanne Melville who are all midday meal supervisors. Welcome to the school.

Fundraising Update - Hilary Plowman

It has been very quiet this year on the fundraising front, with our Summer and Christmas Fayre's having to be cancelled, but we are fortunate to have some strong supporters of the school, who have continued to raise funds for the benefit of our pupils and students. June Angliss, our Pearly Queen supporter, kept herself busy during lockdown by making and selling face masks, the proceeds from which she donated to the school. In total, June donated over £900 from the sale of her masks.

Back in the summer, we were part of the Persimmon Homes Building Futures final; a campaign that held a long public voting period from July to September. This campaign helped raise the profile of the Charity and school, and although we did not scoop one of the top prizes offered, we were very grateful to receive a runners up cheque for £5,000.

This time last year we were fortunate to receive a guaranteed pledge of income from FB Coales (No. 4) Family Trust. The Trust agreed to pay an amount of money so that the school could install sensory lighting and audio to the hydrotherapy pool. The trust agreed to pay just over £14,400 and this money has now been received by Foreland Fields Charity. Along with just over £3,300 received from North Foreland Golf Club Ladies Team, and £300 from Thanet Fishermens Association, we have secured just over £20,000 to fund this project and hope that work will be able to commence in the New Year.

We have also just been informed of a successful bid to KCC Sport for £300. This grant will be used to buy new cheerleading equipment so that the school can run a virtual cheerleading

club with the members learning routines at home. This equipment will be purchased early in the New Year and we are very grateful to KCC Sport for this donation.

MyLan, a local pharmaceutical company based at Discovery Park, contacted us at Easter as they were looking for local charities to donate to. After sending them details of the Charity and school, they kindly donated £250.

The current Mayor of Ramsgate, Raushan Ara, has always been a firm supporter of the school, and was able to attend a couple of school events last year. It was a lovely surprise to receive a cheque for £100 from the Mayor's Charity pot this summer and we look forward to welcoming her to more events when restrictions allow.



Our Amazon Smile scheme has now been active for a year. Thank you to all who are already using it. To date we have received just over £160 from Amazon donations made via sales, with the next payment due in February. It really is a simple way of raising money for the school at no cost to you. Please remember to use Amazon Smile when you shop online.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy Christmas

Hilary.



1st Day of Term 3 – Monday 4th January 2020

Last day of Term 3 – Friday 12th February 2020

Monday 22nd February 2021 is a Staff Training Day and the school will therefore be closed to all pupils and students.



Brexit

As stated above, we will be open for Term 3 on Monday 4th January. Please bear in mind that this is the first working day after Brexit comes into force, so journeys may take longer. We have been planning for Brexit for the past few months and whilst we are hoping that the impact on the day to day running of the school will be minor, we have to plan for every eventuality.

One of the impacts of Brexit is likely to be an increase in vehicles, especially heavy goods, waiting to cross the channel. This is likely to affect not only Dover and surrounding areas, but also other roads leading into and out of Thanet.

It is likely that pupils who travel to school from out of area will be impacted by this through increased journey times. Having liaised with transport providers, and undertaken our own risk assessments, we are confident that they will consider the needs of those pupils who require support with personal care, postural management, emergency health care, medication, eating and drinking and behaviour.

Transport providers and the school will be monitoring daily traffic reports, which will indicate up to date journey times, in order to assess whether alternative routes are viable. Transport providers will liaise with parents to ensure that any potential travel plan is appropriate and safe for their child.

Parents should note that the school is unable to share Health Care Plans with transport providers. It is a parent's responsibility to communicate any specific health or care needs with transport providers in order to ensure the wellbeing of their child whilst travelling. As a school we support this process by providing a template Travel Care Plan annually. We will be sending this again to all parents of children on transport in the New Year in order that they can update the transport companies of their child's needs.

When we return in January, the main requirements to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will remain in place. We ask that all pupils/students who are ill stay at home.

Any pupil displaying any of the symptoms of COVID-19 should not come to school:

- High temperature – this means feeling hot to touch on the chest or back (you do not need to measure temperature).
- New, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if a person usually has a cough, it may be worse than usual).
- Loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means not being able to smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

From January we will continue to do everything possible to maintain education for your child, just as we have done throughout the pandemic. However, we will always prioritise the health and safety of our pupils and staff and, until the situation allows and rapid testing is introduced, we may have to consider further closure of bubbles if we have more cases of

COVID-19 within our community. Hopefully, the vaccine will be available soon and we can begin to return to some sort of normality.

I would like to wish all pupils, students, families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. We look forward to seeing you on 4th January 2021.

Adrian

