



Foreland Fields School

End of Term Newsletter December 2022



NHS

Strep A

For information on symptoms and when to seek medical help visit nhs.uk/Strep-A

Group A Streptococcus(GAS)/Scarlett Fever.

A number of children have been absent from school with the normal coughs, colds and sore throats. There is however, concern regarding Group A Streptococcus(GAS)/Scarlett Fever.

In nurseries and schools, it is recognised that infections can be spread through direct physical contact between children and staff.

The key symptoms to look out for in your child include:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpaper feel (On darker skin the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpaper feel).

Contact NHS 111 or your GP if your child appears unwell with any of the above listed symptoms. Early treatment with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications.

Finland Duke of Edinburgh Gold Event

During the middle of Term 3, a group of our upper school students will be going to Finland to complete their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. If successful, which we are confident they will be, this will be our first group who have achieved the Gold Award standard. Whilst in Finland, students will take part in a range of activities which could include skiing and dog sled rides. We will keep you posted as to the group's progress.



Inclusion Quality Mark – Centre of Excellence

We are really pleased to report that, following on from being awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark, we submitted further evidence and have been upgraded to Centre of Excellence status. We are really proud of this accolade as it supports our drive for greater inclusion. Ofsted defines an educationally inclusive school as one in which the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every young person matter.



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Christmas Events



A big thank you to all parents/carers for supporting our Christmas celebrations. The pathway events were well attended and enjoyed by all. This is the first time we have delivered Christmas events in this way but

they were more relevant to the needs of our young people and allowed for greater participation.

The Christmas Fair was also an enjoyable, and well attended, event. On Thursday we held the staff pantomime. It was great to see the pupils/students back together in the hall and they all seemed to enjoy it. I have heard there is an Oscar buzz around the actor who portrayed the pantomime cow. Watch this space!

Procedures for School Closure

After Christmas we enter the coldest months and there is always a chance of 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 ClassDojo, the school website and post a notification on the Kent Closures website. This will then be broadcast, along with other school 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. Many of our pupils arrive each day by school transport and sometimes providers are unable to drive the buses in the heavy snow, particularly those travelling from further afield. The decision as to whether to drive is the transport providers, not the schools.



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Goodbye and Hello



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

Clare Reynolds-Walder, Rachael Cousins, Naomi Mosley, Jasmine Woolley, Sophie Webster, Samina Kazmi and Harry Beech will all be leaving us at the end of this term.

After the break, we have a number of new staff joining the school. We have new CSAs (Classroom Support Assistants) joining us; Jade Chant, Jemma Hammond, Charlene Murphy, Tiffany Robbins, Michelle Smith and Hannah Welch



Two new TAs (Teaching Assistants) will also be joining us in January; Candice Baker and Danielle Dambiec.

Over the past few months, we have welcomed the following Teaching Assistants: Amy Coster, Rachel Eberlin, Kim Farley, Toni Reynolds and Molly Worrow. We have also welcomed a new midday meal supervisor, Christina Munday.

Fundraising Update – Back Field Project (The Hive)

Our new Director of Philanthropy, Diarmuid Molloy, has been extremely busy, and hugely successful. He has written twenty plus bids to major donors across the last few months and we are now beginning to see some positive outcomes. The total raised is now over £260,000 with hope of substantial pledges still to come.



We are currently looking at innovative construction methods aimed at delivering a quality, accessible build within an accelerated timeframe. We are hoping to begin the build process in 2023.

We have recently resubmitted planning applications to further develop the horticulture and Forest school areas as well as putting in place an accessible path and cycle track. The project, which we are naming 'The Hive', will eventually be home to a range of organisations who provide leisure, sports, vocational and training opportunities for children and young adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. This means that when the school day finishes, the facility will remain in use across evenings, weekends and holidays. Partner organisations include; East Kent Mencap, Wheelability, Thanet Galaxy Disability Football team and Inclusive Sport.



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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>

Raffle for Lake District Holiday

A Luxury Holiday in the Lake District - Half Term 11th February to 18th February 2023.

Tickets are still on sale for the holiday for six people in an apartment at the Whitbarrow Village in the Lake District, which has been kindly donated to the school by one of our Governors. The apartment is fully accessible.



Whitbarrow village is in Penrith, Cumbria so please only enter if you are able to travel to the destination. From the school, this will take approximately 6 hours 30 minutes.



The draw will take place on the 18th January. Tickets are £1 per ticket and £5 per strip.

If you wish to have a look at the venue, the link is below:

<https://www.luxurylodges.com/whitbarrow/>



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Dates for your Diary

2023

1st Day of Term 3 – Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Last day of Term 3 – Friday 10th February 2023

Please note Monday 20th February is a training day so school will be shut to all pupils and students.

I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. We look forward to seeing all pupils and students on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Adrian

