

Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### Covid-19 Update

We are currently reducing the mixing of pupils from different classes by working in our 'bubbles'. This will continue until the middle of next week and we will seek further advice from Public Health based on the situation we are in at that time. Please note that this has been a precautionary measure and the children have quickly adapted to the new arrangements we have in place for break and lunchtimes.

If your child develops any of the three main symptoms of the virus - a *high temperature*, a *new, continuous cough* and a *loss or change to the sense of smell or taste* - he/she should **isolate** and **arrange a PCR test**. If you require any support or advice in relation to symptoms or testing, please contact the school office and staff will be happy to talk to you. When you receive your child's PCR result, please phone the school office as soon as possible and forward the result (via email) to [sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk). Thank you.

If your child is in either Class 1 or 3, he/she received a PCR testing kit from Public Health's testing team last week. Pupils across the school were provided with additional LFD testing kits; the advice we have been given is for all asymptomatic pupils and staff to use these to test themselves twice a week. Please let us know of any positive test outcomes (LFD and PCR) as soon as you receive these. Thank you for your support in helping us to reduce the spread of the virus within the school community.



### Christmas Card Competition

Thank you once again to all the children who entered the Parish Council's Christmas card competition. There were so many entries from all year groups and the standard was very high! The Parish Council had a difficult job choosing a winner. I am delighted to announce that the winning entry is **Lyla Anderton** in **Year 4** with her 'Merry Halebankmas' card. Lyla will be turning on the Halebank Christmas Lights (next to the Co-op) on **Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021** at **5.30 pm**. Everyone is invited to come along. Well done to Lyla and everyone else who participated in the competition. We are very proud of you all!



### The 5 Ways to Wellbeing

We continue with our weekly feature, *The 5 Ways to Wellbeing*, and today the Pupil Parliament will mention the importance of taking notice...

## Take Notice

Hello! This week is **take notice** week and the whole of the Pupil Parliament is joining in for our last of the '5 Ways'. We are Poppy, Hayden, James, George, Poppie and Isaac. It's important to stop and notice everything that's going on around you. Some people call this being mindful. Often, we are too busy to notice things, so here are some things you can do:



- ☺ Walk around outside and write down what you can hear.
- ☺ Walk around outside and write down how many colours you can see.
- ☺ Sit quietly and draw something that represents peace.
- ☺ Listen to some music. How does it make you feel?

Taking notice is great for your wellbeing and we'd love to see some photos of you **noticing things** at home. Please email these, or any other wellbeing pictures, to Mr Harley at [head.halebank@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.halebank@halton.gov.uk) and we will put them on our wellbeing board in the hall.

## Personal Development Strengths



This week's personal development strength is **creativity**. We have been teaching the children the importance of celebrating their individuality and developing their imaginations. Well done to the following children who have demonstrated their creative skills this week:



Reception	<b>Sophie:</b> for always being a creative dancer and artist!
Year 1	<b>Emelia:</b> for showing creativity in various ways
Year 2	<b>Lily:</b> for being creative in gymnastics
Year 3	<b>Millie:</b> for being imaginative in her writing
Year 4	<b>Amelia:</b> for creative ideas and excellent use of language when writing
Year 5	<b>Coby:</b> for a creative gymnastics routine
Year 6	<b>Lydia:</b> for a piece of creative writing with modal verbs, adverbs for possibility and parenthesis

## Messages from The School Office

- *Class 1 and 2 Parents:* Payment for the Smithills Open Farm visit is due today. Please ensure that we receive your consent forms and money by the end of today.
- *Class 4 Parents:* The second instalment of £40 for the Winmarleigh Hall residential visit is due no later than 17<sup>th</sup> December. This should bring the balance of total payment to £70.
- All payments should be made via the School Gateway app. Thank you.



## READING CHAMPIONS



Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4
<b>Thomas</b>	<b>Thomas S</b>	<b>Rocco</b>	<b>Poppy W</b>



## Attendance

As a school, we are aware that absence has risen in the last fortnight with an increase in illness. Nevertheless, we still have a responsibility to check attendance throughout the school and some of you have received monitoring letters at various points in the term so far. The latest letters have been sent out if your child's attendance has fallen significantly below our school target of 96%. I know that some of this absence may be Covid-related or linked to illnesses you have already told us about, however I would welcome the opportunity to meet informally with parents to talk this through. Please do make an appointment to meet with me if you have received a letter and/or reminder text so that there is an opportunity to discuss your child's absences and identify any support that may be needed. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## After School Clubs: Spring 2022

We are currently making plans for next half term's clubs and these will be booked via the School Gateway app. If you would like to familiarise yourself with the booking system in the app before it goes live, you can do this by following the instructions that are coming your way via an app notification and email (look out for these early next week). You will be able to book a place in the 'TEST BOOKING SESSION' so that you know how to make a booking when the club choices are announced later in the week.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and that the big switch on goes well on Sunday night!

Yours sincerely

Mr R Harley  
Headteacher