



RW/tb

10<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

## SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER NO. 1

The days are slowly getting longer and the daffodils are beginning to pop through the ground. A sure sign that spring is on the way! The academic year is gathering pace, new faces are very much settled in whilst our older faces are starting to think about their next steps and life after Market Field School. I've been so proud of all the children and the level of resilience they have shown over the past few months, with all our Covid uncertainty. I promised brighter days ahead, I think we are getting there now.

As usual, a few bits to share with you all.

### Change to Non-Pupil Day

We have listened to feedback and we will be moving the date of our May non-pupil day. The non-pupil day will now be on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022** and this date replaces the non-pupil day that was originally scheduled for **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May**. If you have already booked activities for the Tuesday and can provide us with proof of this (tickets booked for a theme park in advance, for example), we will authorise absence for this date.

### School Uniform

A reminder please that all students are expected to be wearing a school uniform. Our school uniform is a jade or navy blue t-shirt, navy blue sweatshirt (either with the school logo or completely unbranded) and grey/black school trousers/skirt. Children should also be wearing appropriate PE kit for their PE lessons, including tracksuits where necessary and appropriate footwear.

### Medical / Absence Procedures

Reminder to parents to notify the office please of any student absence. It isn't enough to notify the taxi firm or passenger assistant on the vehicle, they work separately to us and we need to hear from you directly. Similarly, if your child is going to be off school, please make sure you notify the taxi firm as well as letting us know.



Polite reminder please. It is the school policy that if your child has any sickness or diarrhoea they must stay off school for 48 hours after the last episode of either. We know it can be inconvenient, but we are doing our best to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Also a reminder, we are a nut free school. Please do not send your child into school with peanut butter sandwiches or other nutty treats.

### **Mobile Phones**

If your child brings their mobile phone to school, it is expected that they hand them to the class teacher immediately on arrival. They will then be returned at home time.

### **Bubble Removal**

From half term we will be removing our bubbles and will be operating as one school with shared lunches and breaks. Children will have lunch in the hall and we will be moving back to shared playtimes. The time feels right to be doing it, our Covid numbers have fallen to a very low level and I feel that if we don't do it now, we won't be able to do it all year.

### **Annual Reviews**

Following the removal of bubbles after half term, we will also revert to holding Annual Review meetings face to face in school. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of you attending these meetings and completing the Parent Views pages to be included within the document. This is your chance to put on paper anything that is or isn't working well both in and out of school for your child.

### **Water Bottles**

Please use half term to check your child has a water bottle for school. All children have access to drinking water throughout the day and are encouraged to use their water bottles and fill them up again if needed.

### **Pay360**

As a cashless school, we are encouraging all parents to sign up to use Pay360 to pay for school dinners, trips, charity days (Comic Relief/Children in Need etc). This means you can see immediately yourselves how much you have paid towards trips/camps etc. acting also as your receipt. If you need help setting this up, please contact the office.

### **Assistant Head Appointment**

Following interviews, we are delighted to be appointing Sarah Gallaher to the role of Acting Assistant Head of School. Sarah is known to lots of you, she is our Poplar class teacher. Sarah will be covering this role when Mrs Norfolk goes on Maternity Leave in March but will be starting from half term so there is a handover period. Sarah will be out of class for two days a week, which may be spread over a few half day periods, to

take a lead on curriculum and assessment. Her class team will lead the class on these days.

### **Primary Aged Children's Vaccinations**

We have had confirmation from the Immunisation Team that they are planning on running a Covid-19 vaccination clinic in school shortly after half-term for children aged 5-11 who are clinically vulnerable. We will be sending out consent forms shortly. Our understanding is that all our children in this age group are eligible for vaccination, but you may wish to clarify this with your own GP. It is also our understanding that a Parent would need to be present for these vaccinations.

See also the Dojo post relating to "Drop in Vaccination Sessions" for 12-18 yrs, over the half-term.

### **Smile Time**

I have had a few queries relating to Smile Time and when it is coming back. This is something we are working on behind the scenes and hope to have it back up and running at some point later-on in the year. The reasons why it hasn't been running for a few holidays are complex but I can promise you, we are working on it!

### **Special Shout Outs**

One of the favourite parts of my job is seeing all the brilliant work the children are getting up to in class and in the wider environment. There have been so many special certificates sent home this term so far, that I have had to order some more.

A few people have made some massive achievements and are also getting a well done in this newsletter; a special well done to: Dylan in 11E for learning to ride a bike, Vinnie in 10L for a beautiful independent writing task, Maryellen in 9T for the powerful song lyrics she writes in her own time, Darae in class B for starting to greet everyone beautifully in the corridors, Orishe in Poplar for settling into a new school so well after a long time out of school and Lily in class K for learning to enjoy school again.

Mr Smith, Mr Dwight and I can't wait to hand out more stickers and certificates after half-term for more amazing hard work.

Have a lovely and relaxing half term holiday. Please stay safe and well. We will see you all again on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Sincerely



Ruth  
Head of School