

Dear Parents / Carers,

### **A few updates**

It is lovely to see our new Year R children so settled and being so happy in school.

I know that for many of you whose child has shown possible symptoms of COVID 19 such as a high temperature, a new and persistent cough and /or a loss of taste or smell, it has been very frustrating trying to get an COVID 19 test. Please do keep trying and there are now local walk in testing centres up and running in Shirley and Woolston. It is reassuring that, to this point, no child in school has tested positive.

It is very hard to distinguish between a common cold and COVID 19 as some of the symptoms are the same. Please do seek advice through 111 or online. They will advise you what to do and may suggest you book a test and self-isolate or seek advice from your GP or a pharmacist. Our office team cannot give individual medical advice over the phone but can help you through the process of who to contact based on what you have told us . The office team are doing a great job at this busy time of year.

If you are looking for sensible advice, please go to the **Wessex Healthier Together** website, the link is detailed below. They have detailed information on COVID 19 and a section of advice on whether your child should be in school. Children with a common cold can be in school. We continue to clean surfaces and hands throughout the day and encourage children to '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' if they sneeze and to use a tissue, then clean their hands.

<https://what0-18.nhs.uk/popular-topics/coronavirus>

### **Extra Seating Areas**

The new seating areas by the car park gate and by Oakley John Gate are now complete. These areas will give us more opportunity to safely work and eat outdoors.

### **Bike Rack**

The bike rack that was located along the path to Oakley John Gate has now been moved next to the building by the breakfast club rooms, near to the Year 4 / 6 entrance. This is a narrow path and now a main exit and it was not possible for the bike rack to be used without causing more congestion and reducing social distancing. **Please make sure that all bikes are securely locked.**

### **Scooters**

If you can take your child's scooter with you when you drop off, please do. If needed, the scooter racks can be used. One is located just inside Peartree Gate and the other by the gate between KS1 and KS2 playground (as this is by a busy walkway, please be mindful of not blocking the route for others when locking your scooter).

**SEESAW APP Year 2 to Year 6-** please do complete the form to request that you are set up on SEESAW . We would like every parent to be able to access their

child's learning through the APP. We hope that classes will not need to self-isolate but, if they do, this is how we will send you home learning. Please click to complete the link below, and we will send you log in details.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfObFIA3nQZ-JjNPIBv\\_nobxEQrI98VLQlp3UTZObVWP8-oGQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfObFIA3nQZ-JjNPIBv_nobxEQrI98VLQlp3UTZObVWP8-oGQ/viewform)

### **Tapestry Year R and Year 1**

In a similar way Year 1 and Year R will use Tapestry for home learning. Please do make sure you are signed up to use this app.

### **New Year R for 2021**

It always seems strange after we have only just welcomed our new Year R to be thinking about the cohort for the next year (September 2021). In the past, we have invited prospective parents in for a tour of the school in small groups led by Year 6 children. This will not be possible this year.

Therefore, the information for prospective parents will all be virtual and remote. Click on the link below for more details and please pass to other parents whose children are due to start school in September 2021.

<https://www.bitterneceprimary.net/key-information/year-r-2021-admission-information/>

We hope to have the virtual tour and the videos all uploaded within the next 3 weeks. The deadline for applications for Year R 2021 is 15th January 2021.

You can make your application online [through the SCC website](#), (Please click to view) which also includes additional information to help guide you through the process.

If you, or any other prospective parents you know, would like help in submitting an online application, please do contact our school office.

### **Applying for secondary school (Year 6 Parents)**

It is also the time of year when Year 6 children and parents are looking to apply for a secondary school. Please visit the secondary school websites for details of their virtual open days etc.

**The applications must be submitted online by 31st October.** If any parent needs any help in submitting an online application, please ask at the office.

This year you have 4 preferences. It is very important you do **use all four preferences. You have to state what is your 1st choice but also add in your 2nd , 4rd and 4th preferences too.**

If you were to only put your first preference and you are not successful, you will then be allocated to any school that has a place, so please use **all four** preferences, particularly as the Year 6 cohort across the city has more children than previous years.

**Lost Property**

We are trying to reduce the number of items that become lost in school. We always check if an item has a name in it, so we can return it.

**Please make sure every single item your child brings to school is labelled with their name.**

We will have boxes for KS1 and KS2 items with no name that will be brought out at the end of the day from the KS1 library entrance and the KS2 Year 5 entrance with hand gel to be used before and after handling any items, but if everything is labelled, we hope these won't need to be used.

Thank you once again for all your support

Yours sincerely

Andy Peterson  
Headteacher

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