



MAGDALEN GATES PRIMARY



Bulletin: 13th December 2021

Message from Mr Hutchinson

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are in the last week of a very long and challenging term. As a school and a community, we have been through a lot together since the children returned to school in September. Throughout this period, I have been continually surprised and delighted by the way that children, staff and families have met each obstacle with confidence and positivity with the education and safety of the children at the heart of every decision. This is exactly what we want this school to be about. We want the children to grow into young people who have the skills, knowledge and mind set to meet life's challenges on the way to them being able to decide their own futures. We can achieve this by working together in times of challenge to show the children that these are the things that we prioritise in life. This is how we create this positive culture.

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister last night about the rise of the Omicron variant of Covid, it is clear that more challenges are coming our way. In school today we are seeing a high level of staff and pupil absence, most of which is being attributed to positive PCR and LFT tests or symptoms that have prompted PCR tests to be booked. I have contacted the Norfolk Outbreak Management Centre (NOMC) for advice and will communicate their recommendations to everyone in due course. In school we are still wearing masks in shared spaces, we are washing/sanitising hands regularly and all the windows are open all the time. This will have helped to mitigate the spread, but clearly Covid is so transmissible that we all need to do more. In school we will continue to follow NOMC advice and will do what we must do to help everyone to get to the end of term in the safest and most enjoyable way possible. At home, please be extra vigilant with relation to health. If anyone is unwell in any way (particularly coughs, high temperatures, sickness or general cold like symptoms) please book them a PCR test and follow the normal procedures from the NHS until a negative result is received. This vigilance will help us to slow the spread in our community and should help everyone to have the Christmas break that they wish to have.

On the subject of Christmas, it was lovely to see so many parents enjoying the Covid secure outdoor Christmas Carols last week. Once again, this was something that we adapted due to Covid that has led to an improvement in our practices in school. Many parents fed back to me that they preferred the outdoor carols with a hot chocolate in their hands when compared to being inside the PE Hall. Based on this, we will probably do the same again next year for KS2 and will see what is possible for KS1 and EYFS for a traditional Nativity Play. We will have to see what 2022 brings! For this year, please do what you need to do to keep your family safe and so that you can have as normal a Christmas as possible. If your family does not celebrate Christmas, then I hope you have a restful school holiday and will look forward to seeing all children return to school on Wednesday 5th January.

Merry Christmas!

Attendance

Week beginning 29th November

Late arrivals - 20

Whole school attendance - 96.27%

Week beginning 6th December

Late arrivals - 18

Whole school attendance – 97.06%

Look out in bookbags/pockets this week as we will be sending out individual herringbones detailing your child's attendance record from the start of the academic year.

We are pleased that the school already has lots of pupils whose attendance is very good. Our goal is that all our pupils will meet the green target of 97% and above attendance. Please note X codes are used for any covid related absences. X codes do not affect your child's percentage.

Library News



Both libraries will be opening again on 10th January. I'm sure the children cannot wait to start taking books home again! We haven't finished banding all the KS2 books due to the mammoth task and time it takes, but we have banded about 90% of the books. The KS2 children can take a library book home, which will be banded to their school reading level as assessed by their class teachers. There are books that cannot be banded due to their publication date, but these are clearly labelled in the library.

KS1 books are not being banded due to weekly RWI books going home at the children's reading level.

EYFS - Thursday

Year 1 - Thursday

Year 2 - Friday

Year 3 - Monday

Year 4 - Monday

Year 5 - Tuesday

Year 6 - Tuesday

REPORTING ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child(ren) are absent from school – for any reason – we ask that you contact the school first thing in the morning and leave a message on the absent line or email the office at office@magdalengates.co.uk to let us know. Please remember to give us as much detail as possible of symptoms etc.

RARING2GO!

The Winter edition of Raring2go for Norwich and surrounding areas can now be accessed at <https://magazines.raring2go.co.uk/norwich/winter/>. This is the first Norwich edition and is packed full of great ideas to help families have fun and keep the children busy and entertained during the Winter months.

Look out for a great book bundle competition with some great quality, educational books for children. It is really easy to enter – all you need to do is click on the advert on page 25!

ONLINE SAFETY NEWSLETTER

The December edition of the Online Safety Newsletter is attached to this newsletter. Please do have a look through. There is some helpful hints and tips around parental controls.

MUSIC LESSONS



If your child is interested in learning either the Piano, Clarinet, Flute or Saxophone, Victoria Arnull has some spaces in the New Year.

Please do contact Vicky direct at Victoria.arnull09@bathspac.ac.uk or telephone 01493 497603 or mobile 07772652587

CLEANER REQUIRED



We are looking to employ a cleaner for 10hrs per week to come and join the Magdalen Gates team.

We are looking for someone who is committed to providing a clean and safe environment for children. Is reliable and has good time keeping and pays attention to detail and takes pride in their work. Is this you?

Please do come and discuss the role with Paul Wilson our caretaker or you can pick up an application from Claire

Armstrong, our Finance Manager in the school office. Or you can email finance@magdalengates.co.uk

WE RETURN TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY 5TH JANUARY

Attachments

St Giles SOS Programme for parents/carers – SOS Gangs and County lines sessions for Parents
Online safety newsletter
Norwich Penguins – Learn to Swim flyer