



7TH JANUARY 2022

NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wednesday, 19th January 2022
Parent Information and Coffee Morning - Early Communication
09:30 - 12:00

This session is open to all, but is probably more relevant to parents with children in Acorn Willow, Beech and Maple Classes.

Wednesday, 2nd February 2022
Parent Information and Coffee Morning - Understanding Myself and Others
09:30 - 12:00

This session is open to all parents across both schools.

14th - 18th February 2022
SPRING HALF TERM - No School

Friday, 1st April 2022
END OF TERM - EARLY CLOSURE FOR PUPILS

Happy New Year to you all.

Sadly, 2022 has not started as we had hoped with a marked increase in members of the school community testing positive for Covid.

Omicron, the new variant seems to have caused a surge in positive cases, although it is reportedly a lot milder than the Delta variant.

Because of the significant rise in cases, across the country as a whole, meaning it is proving extremely difficult to get supply cover, we have to bring in a Covid Contingency Plan.

This can be viewed on our websites under the parent section - remote home learning - Covid 19 Management Plan.

To those of you who have already experienced a reduced timetable for your child this week, we would like to thank you for your support and understanding, which as always is very much appreciated.

WHY ARE OUR LINK PRIORITIES SO IMPORTANT?

As parents, we all know what it is like to go through that emotional rollercoaster as we watch our children grow and develop. Sometimes our fears grow from our vivid imagination about the future. What will happen if my child can't communicate if they're in trouble, if they can't look after themselves or keep themselves safe from those that may want to harm them?

At the Link we bear this in mind from the moment children walk through the door all the way through to the time they leave us as young adults. Learning is not just about knowledge in the curriculum but about helping our children to grow abilities that will help them have a positive outlook in life. We encourage them to find the things that make life worthwhile and to know that they can find solutions to help them overcome their challenges.

Developing strong emotional intelligence is a key factor in anyone's long term success whatever their ability. It helps us to look at life in creative ways and helps us to tackle problems wisely. Some people carry this type of intelligence naturally where as

others have to work at it a little harder.

At the Link we are educating children for life. We will consider that we have done a good job if our young people leave school with the ability to have and maintain quality relationships and live and work successfully alongside others.

At the Primary and Secondary school, we have a set of Link Priorities, a series of statements that underpin our planning and delivery of the curriculum in a way that will constantly tackle these emotional intelligence factors. This is why when we report on progress in annual reviews or parent evenings, we make sure we talk about and identify areas for development in these key areas alongside the National Curriculum attainment.

As parents you can join us in supporting this journey for your child. Take a look at the Priority statements so that you are aware of the kind of things that your child needs to develop to get the best possible future. Then spend a few moments each week really observing your child in their everyday life activities. What are they thinking, feeling, understanding or misunderstanding in these areas? Is there an activity you can do together, a film you can

watch, a conversation to have, a social story to write that will move your child forward a little step in the area they are having difficulty with. A little bit of drip feeding each week will go a long way and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have played such an important part in their success as they move towards independence.

You will find attached a copy of both schools' Link Priorities.

Here's a snapshot of the priorities in action, from our youngest to our oldest learners.



Primary Link Priority No. 4
Readiness to learn



Primary Link Priority No. 7
Communication - Social



The youngest member of our
school community



Primary Link Priority No. 9
Community - Out and About



Secondary Link Priority No. 1
Forming Friendships



Secondary Link Priority No. 17
Participate in a range of social and
leisure activities



Secondary Link Priority No. 6
Functional Communication



Secondary Link Priority No. 13
Theory of Mind



Secondary Link Priority No. 10
Transfer and generalize skills into
different environments



Secondary Link Priority No. 19
Healthy Lifestyle



Our oldest female student



Our oldest male student

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This week, we welcomed Jaymie to the school. Jaymie is in Hazel Class and has settled in very quickly; having already met her new classmates during her transition visits.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND AND ABOUT?

On Wednesday, 2nd February, we are holding our next parent information and coffee morning.

The topic is "**Understanding Myself and Others**". Starting at 9.30am it should be of interest to parents across both schools.

In order to understand others, we must first understand ourselves. Emotions and Interacting with others can be very difficult for our children. This session will focus on Theory of mind - that is the ability to imagine what others may be thinking. We will look at Social Stories and Comic Strip conversations.

AND FINALLY

We hope this week's newsletter has given you a real insight into what our Link Priorities are all about.

Have a lovely weekend.