



Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK!

It is wonderful to be able to welcome your children back into school again for the new year. They all seem very happy and to have got back into the swing of learning quickly.

We have a couple of changes of day this half term:

- Voyagers will have Forest School on a Monday, on the same day as their brass lesson
- Buccaneers will therefore have Forest School on a Tuesday
- Years 2 and 3 (including Year 2s in both classes) will be swimming on Wednesdays, from next week.

COVID-19 UPDATE

The great news is that we have very little Covid in the school at the moment. However, of course that may change, so everyone needs to be aware of the current guidelines:

- If you have a member of your household with Covid-19, others can come to school as normal but they are advised to take a daily lateral flow test (if they are over the age of 5).
- People with positive tests now only need to isolate for 7 days, as long as they have a negative lateral flow test on days 6 and 7.
- We can run school as normal unless we reach 4 current cases in one class. If that happens, we will return to a "bubble" system with children in the affected class not mixing with those from other classes.
- If we have staff shortages, we will do whatever we can to keep the school open, including moving staff between classes, employing supply teachers if they are available (though they were very difficult to find before Christmas) and maybe combining classes, especially if lots of children are also absent. We would only close the school for a class if there is no other way of keeping the children safe in school.

Hopefully, of course, none of these contingencies will have to happen and we will have a happy, productive, normal term.

SPELLING AT BRIZE NORTON SCHOOL

At the INSET Day on Tuesday, we decided to change how we teach and assess spelling. All children in Year 2 and upwards will now have a short spelling lesson at the beginning of each day, some focused on learning spelling rules and some on specific lists of "tricky" words. We will send home an explanation of what children are learning so that parents can help them at home. However, we will no longer be doing formal spelling tests once a week. This can lead to anxiety in some children, and in many it can lead to last-minute learning for the test, which means that they do well in the test and then forget it afterwards. We would prefer to do a little learning every day in school to get the knowledge into children's long-term memories. We will be assessing what they have remembered once a term.

Best wishes

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Primary School

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7th January 2022

DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2022

Tues 11th Jan – Full Governing Body

Wed 12th Jan – first swimming for Years 2 and 3

Thurs 20th Jan – Lucky Lunch Day

Fri 21st Jan – Boccia tournament

Fri 28th Jan – Year 4 Street Dance at Burford School

Mon 31st Jan – Year 5/6 Sportshall Athletics tournament

Tues 8th Feb – Year 3 Ball Skills at Burford School

Week beginning 21st February – Half Term

Thurs 3rd March – Governors' Performance and Learning Committee

Mon 21st March – Full Governing Body meeting

Thurs 24th March – Year 5/6 rugby tournament

Tues 29th March – Parents' evening in school

Fri 1st April – West Oxfordshire cross country finals

Thurs 7th April – School ends 1.15pm

Fri 8th April – School closed: day off in lieu of Platinum Jubilee bank holiday