

April 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wish you all a happy Easter!!

The days are getting brighter and warmer, let's hope we have lovely weather over the holidays.

Our Road Map easing our way out of lockdown takes us another step further, we are now permitted to have gatherings of either six people or two households, outside. This provides the opportunity to meet our families and friends, which I am sure we are all ecstatic about. The 'stay at home' rule, also has ended so we can now venture out of our local communities. This is also an exciting prospect, I expect the children will be keen to share their experiences with us.

I hope you all received the email, sent on the 3rd March explaining about lateral covid testing. This is another resort in keeping us all safe. I hope you have all managed to access the kits and completing the tests twice a week.

I received this update from the government on the 22nd March -

Changes to the Test and Trace support payment for parents

Parents and carers of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting or by NHS Test and Trace are now able to apply for a [Test and Trace Support Payment](#) or discretionary payment of £500, if they meet the eligibility criteria. The extension of the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme, which is administered by district and unitary local authorities in England, ensures that parents receive the financial support they need if they are unable to attend work due to childcare responsibilities.

Parents and carers should apply to their local authority to receive a payment. Applications for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme are made via the local authority in which the parent or carer resides, not the local authority where the setting is situated, if these are different.

To be eligible applicants must meet all of the criteria that:

- they are the parent or guardian of a child or young person in the same household and need to take time off work to care for them while they self-isolate. This is

limited to one parent or guardian per household for the child or young person's self-isolation period

- they are employed or self-employed
- they cannot work from home while undertaking caring responsibilities and will lose income as a result
- they meet all the other means-tested eligibility criteria for a Test and Trace Support Payment or locally determined criteria for a discretionary payment

That their child or young person:

- is aged 15 or under (or 25 or under with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC)) and normally attends an education or childcare setting
- has been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace or by their education or childcare setting because they have been identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19)

Our Spring/Summer menu has commenced, the recipes are being well received at the moment. Full details can be found on our website.

Primary school places this year will be announced on Friday 16th. If you applied by post, a letter will arrive by a slightly later date. If any of you experience any problems with your applications, please see Donna.

We are unsure how the transitions to school will work again this year. We are preparing the children here and having a lot of discussions on the topic.

Planning

This month we are continuing with the theme of Recycling and the sub heading is- Changes.

The early learning goals and prime areas being covered are –

w/c 29th – Half Term, Easter Craft

w/c 5th – Half Term, Easter Craft

w/c 12th – Writing

w/c 19th – Exploring and using Media and Materials and St Georges Day (23rd).

Book of the Month

This month our focus book is 'Fidgety Fish'. Ask your child about the adventure Tiddler the Fish gets up to. This questioning, supports the children's recall skills and parent/carer partnership.

Song of the Month

We will be singing and signing to the 'Rainbow' song. It never ceases to amaze us, how quickly the children pick the signs up. We hope they perform to you at home.

Hope the Easter Bunny Visits!