

Milton St. John's CE Primary School

Newsletter

Wednesday 5 January 2022

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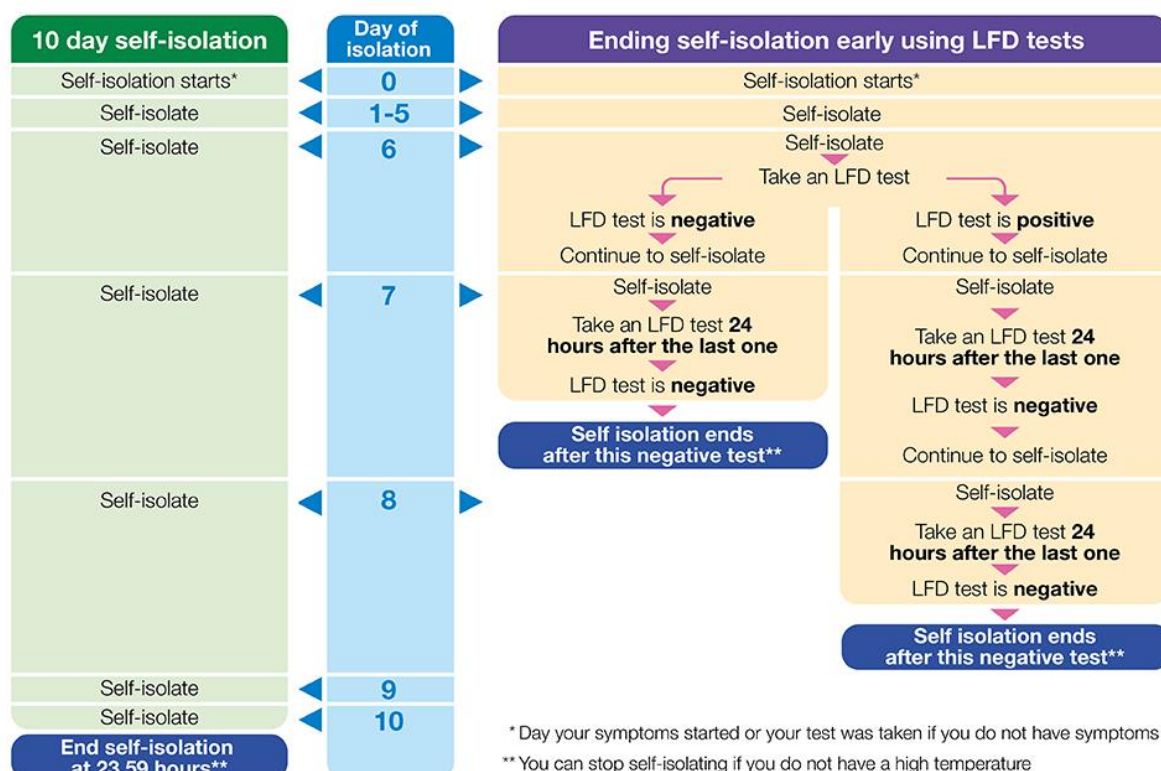
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are very happy to welcome everyone back to school and wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope that you have enjoyed a good Christmas break and that any disruptions didn't completely spoil your time together. As it stands at the moment we are operating as previously. Observance of ventilation and handwashing/sanitising and adults and visitors to school will wear masks when moving around the building.

As you will be aware, COVID-19 is sadly still with us as we go into 2022. We are once again seeing a rapid increase in cases of COVID-19 across the country. Ahead of the new term, we wanted to thank you for your support during this incredibly challenging time.

You may have heard that there is currently very high demand for both PCR and LFD tests. The gov.uk websites where tests can be ordered and booked are apparently updated at several intervals throughout the day, therefore if you do find that tests are unavailable we recommend that you try again later in the day. Local Authorities have been given assurances by NHS Test and Trace that testing supply will be increased so we hope that the current problems with supply will be resolved soon.

The Department for Education has stated that children can return to school (following a positive PCR test) after testing negative on an LFD test on day 6 and day 7 (tests must be 24 hours apart). To help understand this further, please see the chart below.



Once again, please do let us know if your child tests positive by emailing positive.covid@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk or contacting the school via 01457832572.

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MANAGING NUT AND OTHER ALLERGY POLICY REMINDER

Please may we remind you about our Managing Nut and Other Allergy Policy which can be viewed on our website. We do have children in our school with severe nut allergies, therefore, it is really important that parents are familiar with our policy. As you may be aware, **ANAPHYLAXIS** is a severe allergic reaction at the extreme end of the allergic spectrum, affecting the entire body and can occur within minutes of exposure. The main causes are attributed to nuts, seeds and seafood.

The Anaphylaxis Campaign highlights a number of problems with saying that we are a 'Nut Free School' as follows:

- It would be impossible to provide an absolute guarantee that the School is nut free, given that pupils regularly bring in food from home and food items bought on the way to School
- There would be a risk that children with allergies might be led into a false sense of security
- The nut ban would be seen as a precedent for demands to ban other potentially 'risky' foods.

However, whilst we are not proposing that we are a 'Nut Free School' the Governors have made the decision to not allow nuts into school to help minimise airborne allergic reactions to nuts. Therefore, nuts such as peanuts, cashew nuts, monkey nuts, almonds, pistachio etc. (nuts in their natural form) are not allowed in school and will be sensitively taken off children if they are seen and handed back to the parents at the end of the school day. Nuts that are contained within products are still permitted e.g. cereal bars etc.

We do have a new child in school that does have a severe peanut allergy and we would appreciate your support with this matter when you are preparing packed lunches and snacks etc.

FOOD POLICY REMINDER

Please could we remind parents about our Policy on Food. Children from Year 1 - 6 are allowed to bring a snack for mid-morning break should they wish. However, we encourage that snacks are healthy (no chocolate or sugary foods). Children in Key Stage 1 also have daily access to the fruit trolley. Children are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to school so that they are able to keep hydrated throughout the day. Children in Reception and Nursery have access to fruit and water throughout the day. Please see the following extract taken from the Policy on Food.

'We will ensure that our school environment promotes healthy eating. We do not encourage sweets or chocolate to be used as rewards or treats. Pupils and parents are also encouraged not to send sweets or chocolate into school for snacks. Special celebrations (birthdays, Easter, etc.) and events during the school year will be celebrated with either non-edible alternatives or given to the children at the end of the day and encouraged to be eaten after their evening meal.'

We will encourage children to drink plenty of water by encouraging them to bring their own water bottle to school which can be kept in the classroom and filled up with water from the drinking taps. If a water bottle is not available for the child, we will provide them with a cup and regular opportunities to drink water throughout the day.

Children will be encouraged to bring healthier foods such as fruit or foods that are sugar free and lower in fat and salt to eat at break times if they wish to have a snack.'

We have also introduced milk at dinnertime for any children wishing to have a drink of milk each day. This is regardless of whether they are on a school dinner or not.

PE DAY CHANGES

Please note that there may be some changes to the PE days for your child. These changes are made as we try to ensure all the children in Yrs 1-6 have the opportunity to have PE with the coach during the year.

Milton St John's PE kit

White t-shirt (plain or with School logo)

Black/blue shorts

Black/blue jog bottoms and top

EYFS/KS1: plimsolls or velcroed trainers

KS2: plimsolls or trainers

Earrings must be small sleepers (hoops must be smaller than a child's finger/curve around the ear lobe) or studs. If your child is unable to take their earrings out they must be provided with plasters or micropore tape from home to cover earrings during PE lessons.

Days that your child will need to wear their PE kits is as follows...

Class	PE days
R	Wednesday
Class 1	Thursday and Friday
Class 2	Thursday and Friday
Class 3	Thursday and Friday
Class 4	Monday and Friday
Class 5a	Monday and Friday (swimming)
Class 5b	Monday and Wednesday
Class 6	Tuesday (double slot)

SNOWY WEATHER

We will always try and keep the school open! However, under certain circumstances and for various reasons this is not always the case;

1. We do check with local weather stations and liaise with the Local Authority to try and gauge whether there is a likelihood of heavy snowfall. Unfortunately, forecasts are not always accurate and there is heavier snowfall than predicted.
2. The school has a number of staff who live outside the Mossley area. If there are not enough qualified staff available to come into school to open up and manage it safely then it cannot open due to Health & Safety reasons.
3. If the roads are dangerous then the school may not receive food deliveries and may be unable to provide a hot meal or food for the children at lunch time.
4. If the school boilers fail to operate we would need to call out an engineer to repair the fault. The School would have to close if we are not able to heat the school. If the heating fails during the day we would make a decision about school closure and contacting parents.

If there is heavy snowfall and also taking into account the above points, this is what will happen.

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1. If necessary, a decision to close will be made by 8.15am (or earlier if possible). However, if the weather deteriorates throughout the day, we may also need to close school. A text will be sent to all Parents advising them that school is closed or closing.
2. The website will be updated throughout the day, providing that it can be accessed (sometime technology is unpredictable).
3. We will pass school closure information to TMBC and they will update their website.
4. If school remains open, classes may need to be split and shared amongst others if we do not have enough members of staff to cover all classes.
5. If snow is set to continue over a number of days and we are aware of disruption to traffic, we may look at opening at 10am so that school can remain open.

Sending text messages is the most effective way that we can communicate with our parents. Therefore, **please could you ensure that the school has an up-to-date contact number, if you have recently renewed your mobile phone this is particularly important!**

As previously mentioned, the law requires that children on the roll of a school must attend if it is open. However, if conditions in the morning are very severe in the home area, and transport is affected, the parent or guardian must take the decision about whether to send their child to school. In law, this has to be recorded as an 'unauthorised absence'. Once the pupils are in school, an early dismissal/release is the responsibility of the school.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THEME

Our collective worship theme for this half term is PERSEVERANCE. Please find some ideas about how the whole family can have fun and explore this Christian Value at the end of this newsletter.

DIARY DATES

Saturday 15 January 2022

Friday 27 May 2022

Friday 24 June - Monday 27 June 2022

Deadline for Reception 2022

School closed for Queen's Jubilee

Kingswood Residential trip (Year 6)

PERSEVERANCE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value PERSEVERANCE. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER about Perseverance

Teachers often say that **perseverance** is something that many children find difficult.

Very little that is really worthwhile in life can be achieved without **perseverance**. An athlete may train for years before they are ready to compete at the highest level. A musician must practice every day, sometimes for hours at a time, if they are to really master their instrument.

- How would each family member rate themselves on a scale of 1 - 10 at **perseverance**?
- Can you give an example of something you have achieved by determined **perseverance**?
- Is there a skill that you think you could improve with **perseverance**?



READ TOGETHER...

The Widow Who Never Gave Up

There was once a judge living in a town just like this one, said Jesus to the crowd of people who were listening to him and hanging on his every word.

This judge did not care much about God or justice. The crowd muttered to one another and smiled knowingly, they all knew judges like him! A poor widow, called Sarah, lived in the same town. She was being treated badly by her neighbour who was making her life very difficult indeed.

Sarah went to the judge to ask him to hear her case and give her justice.

At first the judge tried to ignore her. Silly old woman he thought. Why won't she leave me alone. Doesn't she realise that I have more important things to deal with?

But Sarah **persevered**. You are my only hope she told the judge. You must help me. Day after day she went to see him.

In the end, the judge was so exasperated that he thought to himself I will never get a minutes peace unless I help this old woman.

Finally he let her explain to him the problems that she was facing and agreed that Sarah's neighbour was indeed behaving very badly and must be made to stop at once. Sarah's **perseverance** paid off and eventually she got the justice she deserved.

So keep **persevering** and keep praying said Jesus to the crowd.

Bible Story based on Luke 18:1-8



QUIZ Wordsearch

PERSEVERANCE
DAY
HELP
HOPE
IGNORE
JUDGE
JUSTICE
KEEP
NEIGHBOUR
PROBLEMS
SARAH
WIDOW

R	X	W	U	E	E	G	D	U	J	K	O
O	S	M	E	L	B	O	R	P	N	F	F
C	N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	R	W
F	E	C	I	T	S	U	J	K	R	A	B
P	N	C	Q	Y	N	V	P	H	E	T	S
P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
B	H	O	P	E	S	P	A	P	Z	C	F
L	W	Y	A	D	S	A	E	T	L	H	V
L	M	R	U	S	U	F	R	E	I	E	H
B	G	A	W	T	Q	A	D	A	K	I	H
J	W	O	D	I	W	X	N	V	H	S	R
P	I	G	N	O	R	E	L	A	F	E	J

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"If at first you don't succeed try,
try and try again."

W.E. Hickson



FAMILY FOCUS

The Perseverance Challenge

Ask each member of the family to write (on identical pieces of paper) a challenge that will require **perseverance** to complete. Fold the paper 4 times and place it in a bag with the others. Invite each person to place their hand into the bag (whilst looking the other way) and pick out a challenge which they have one week to complete. (Think carefully about the challenge you set and if possible make it a worthwhile and useful thing to do).



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Mosaics are one of the oldest ways to make art. People have been arranging tiny coloured pieces of glass or pottery for thousands of years to create beautiful designs. But the process is time consuming and needs lots of **perseverance**. This term's Home-School Challenge is to make a mosaic picture (no bigger than A3 – 29x42cm) using small pieces of coloured paper. The subject of your mosaic is up to you. It could be a pattern or a picture.

All the pictures submitted will be displayed in our school Challenge Gallery.



HALL OF FAME

Prince George

Prince George, later to become King George VI, had always been shy and had developed a stammer, which meant he could not speak for very long without struggling to say the words he wanted to say.

His elder brother, Edward, was very different. He was confident, loved to be the centre of attention and was destined to become King of England.

But soon after the coronation, King Edward announced that he was going to abdicate – to give up being king. His younger brother would now become king in his place. George was horrified! He felt sick with fright. Now he would be expected to deliver speeches and give radio broadcasts to millions! How would he be able to do this with his dreadful stammer? But George knew that it was his duty to serve his country.

He knew that he must overcome his fears and do his very best. He employed an Australian speech therapist to help him and with **perseverance** and great courage George was able to face the challenges ahead. When war was declared in 1939 King George gave a famous speech. He comforted and encouraged his people and won everyone's respect because they knew how brave he was being.



FASCINATING FACTS

Perseverance in the Natural World

Many birds show remarkable **perseverance** as they build their nests, piece by piece often in cold, wet and windy weather and at risk from predators.

The long-tailed tit is just one example. Weighing just 9g, this little bird takes 3 weeks or more to build a nest. The oval shaped nest is made from moss, cobwebs and hair, covered on the outside with lichen and lined with up to 2000 tiny feathers!

