



Ditchheat Primary School Weekly Newsletter - 15th December 2021

This newsletter can also be viewed on our school website:
<http://ditchheatprimary.co.uk/>

Headteachers update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a term it has been. I personally have felt so welcome and am really enjoying every second of my time with you all. What a cracking school!

The Nativity play was really wonderful. The children did an amazing job through all three performances. The Carol Singing also felt special. Thank you to FoDS for the most welcome refreshments. I am really looking forward to 'A Midwife Crisis'. Thank you all for your patience and understanding with all of the changing arrangements.

On January 18th, I am going to sleep in the air raid shelter. Oh no I'm not! Oh yes I am (couldn't resist a bit of panto). I am hoping that everyone will sponsor my mad antics to raise money for our children's toilet refurbishment. We are hoping to get the local press and radio involved, with live updates. Hopefully it will be a bit of fun, and will generate enough interest to get us to our target.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a magical Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you on January 4th, ready for a lush Spring Term. Much love to one and all.

Updated guidance from the DfE - Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19

From Tuesday 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced (including until the end of this term). All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all eligible staff, pupils and students should take an LFD each day for 7 days and report the results through the [Online Reporting System](#) and to their setting. If they test negative, they can continue to attend their education setting. Outside of the education setting, they should continue to follow the advice set out in the [Sunday 12 December press release](#). This approach should also be adopted over the winter break and on return in January.

If they test positive, they should self-isolate and [order a PCR test](#) to confirm the result. If the PCR is positive, they must self-isolate for 10 days. If the PCR test is negative, they no longer need to

self-isolate but should continue to carry out the remainder of the daily tests, and only need to isolate if it is positive.

All staff and secondary aged pupils and students should have access to a box of 7 LFD tests from their education setting. If your setting requires additional test kits sooner than they would be available through the standard ordering process, or will run out of test kits imminently, you can contact 119 to request an emergency replenishment. For primary aged children [LFD test kits are available through the usual routes](#) (community test sites, local pharmacies or online).

Children under five years old do not need to take part in daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 and do not need to isolate.

Anyone over the age of 18 years and 6 months who is not vaccinated, must isolate in line with government guidelines if they are a close contact of a positive case.

For students with SEND who struggle to or are unable to self-swab daily for 7 days, settings should work with students and their families to agree an appropriate testing route, such as assisted swabbing. Information on further support measures will be provided.

Finally, it is important to continue regular twice weekly, at-home testing for all education and childcare workforce and all students of secondary age and above.

Best wishes,

Michelle Heap
Interim Headteacher

Attendance Last Week			
Cherry	Maple	Holly	Willow
97.2%	97.5%	100%	85.8%
Whole School Attendance for 2021-2022 = 95.2%			

Consent for upcoming trips

Swimming - Willow Class - Spring Term

Swimming will be starting for Willow class on Monday 10th January 2022. Please make sure you have consented and paid £32.00 via SCOPAY. Please click below to read the letter:

[Swimming letter](#)

Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday the 17th December it will be Christmas Jumper day. Children can wear non-school uniform and a festive jumper/t-shirt. We will not be collecting money in school. We are asking parents to donate via the Save The Children JustGiving page below:

[Save the Children](#)

New Spring Term Menu

Coming out this week will be the new Spring term menu. Please can we ask that you sit down with your child and look at it together. We only ask, as quite a few children come up to the hatch and wish they weren't down for a jacket potato! Please can the choices be uploaded before 31st December.

Ditchheat Extra and Early Birds

Please remember to book your child a week in advance. If you want your child to attend during the first week back please book by next week.

Flu Vaccination

Somerset SAINT (school aged immunisation nursing team) will be visiting your child's school on Wednesday 5th January from 1pm to administer the nasal spray flu vaccination. If you have given permission for your child to have the vaccination please could you inform the school if any of the below applies to your child:

- if your child is wheezy on the day of vaccination, or has been wheezy in the three days prior to this date
- is asthmatic and has had to increase his or her asthma medication since you returned the consent form
- if there are any other changes in your child's health since you returned the consent form
- if your child has already received the flu vaccine via their GP recently, it is really important that you inform the school otherwise your child may be immunised again because Somerset SAINT may still hold a consent form for them

If you have yet to complete a consent form please use the following link
<https://saint.somersetft.nhs.uk/flu/2021/east>.

This link will close 2 working days prior to the session scheduled date.

Kind Regards

Somerset SAINT

Team Points:

Red: 34 **Yellow:** 29 **Blue:** 26 **Green:** 23

Key Dates

December

- Wednesday 15th - Holly Christmas Production - Midwife Crisis - 2.00pm and 6.30pm
- Friday 17th - Christmas Jumper day and mufti - £1 donation to [Save the Children](#)
- Friday 17th - NO Ditchheat Extra

Christmas Holidays - Monday 20th December - Friday 31st December
Monday 3rd January - Bank Holiday

January

- Monday 3rd - Bank holiday
- Wednesday 5th - Flu Vaccination - PM
- Monday 10th - Swimming for Willow Class - PM
- Monday 10th - Parents' evening via Zoom - Letter coming home**
- Tuesday 11th - Parents' evening via Zoom - Letter coming home**
- Wednesday 12th - Parents evening via Zoom - Letter coming home**
- Monday 17th - Bikeability for Years 5 and 6
- Tuesday 18th - Bikeability for Years 5 and 6
- Tuesday 18th - Mrs Heap sleeping in the Air Raid shelter (the cellar)!!!**