



Head's Message

Theme for next week: St David

Dear Parents,

Last week, I received an entertaining meme depicting a mother standing in a doorway. She was waving goodbye to her two children as they left for school. The caption read, "I know it's not March 8 yet, just walk slowly." It did make me chuckle. Now, I know you love your children dearly, and for many having them at home has been a positive experience. However, I do believe that you are also looking forward to sending them back to school. One dad has already told me that they are popping the champagne! I do hope that we never have to go through this again. We want schools to remain open, we want the infections to decrease and finally, we want the government roadmap to work so that come June 21, we can enjoy the summer.

Boris Johnson confirmed in a statement to Parliament that all year groups will return to school on Monday, 8 March. He said, "Two weeks from today, pupils and students in all schools and further education settings can safely return to face-to-face teaching."

Key points contained within the guidance are:

COVID testing for staff and pupils - there are no changes to the system of testing for primary schools. Staff in primary schools can carry out lateral flow tests at home twice a week, with no testing for primary age pupils at present. The revised arrangements for secondary schools are as follows:

- Secondary age pupils to test three times on site when they return to school
- Thereafter, secondary age pupils test twice a week using home testing kits
- Staff to test twice a week with home testing kits provided from the time they return to school.

The announcement on Monday set out the roadmap and, as expected, children are the first to benefit with the reopening of schools on 8 March for all pupils. Fortunately, there are no changes to requirements for primary schools and arrangements will be the same as they were in the Christmas term. We will run a full programme of educational activities and before and after school care, as well as the activities programme. Next week we will send out the final plan to all parents.

As we have Year 7 and 8 pupils, we do have to accommodate changes regarding face coverings and mass testing for secondary school children. Year 7 and 8 pupils will not wear face coverings for PE lessons or when on break outside, but they will need to wear them at all times when inside. According to the guidance, this additional measure is in place until Easter. For your planning, please ensure that your child has at least two coverings in his/her possession and some form of container to keep the second covering clean.

If consent is given, Year 7 and 8 pupils will have three Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests within the first two weeks of school. After that, the pupils will be provided with home test kits to be administered outside of school. We will ask the parents of our Year 7 and 8 pupils to sign the required consent form in due course.

The vaccination programme continues to gather momentum and for now, the light at the end of the tunnel is beginning to shine more brightly.

Have a good weekend.

Best wishes,

Leonard Blom

HAPPY ST DAVID'S DAY!



Before half term, we launched the first of a series of Eco-Action challenges for children to complete at home. Thank you and well done to everyone who sent in photos of their fabulous work. Here are some wonderful examples from Rohan (3AG), Alba (RKO), Maya (5MA) and Aadam (Ducklings)



For this week's challenge, we are thinking about countries across the world. Start by choosing a country. You may have a family link, a special interest or hope to go there on holiday.

Nursery pupils: draw and colour a flag of your chosen country.

Pre Prep pupils: what are the national dishes of your chosen country? Create a menu or prepare a dish for your family!

Middle and Senior School pupils: listen to music from your chosen country. Can you find any artists from that country who are writing songs about global issues? Write the lyrics to your own climate action song.

Once you have completed your challenge, please upload a photo of it here, including your first name and class. <https://padlet.com/mathsstaubyns/n77gr4icugmcf922>

Amazingly, as a community we have now travelled over 2250 miles on our Road to Tokyo. We have walked, ran and cycled past Paris, Berlin and Moscow and are now heading towards Tashkent! Keep on going and sending in your distances and wonderful photographs to Mr Bayntun.



In the last Library newsletter, Miss Cook highlighted The Mini Winter Reading Challenge and was delighted to hear that Vivienne in 1RK was reading and reviewing books over the Christmas and half-term break. She has read an incredible 51 book and unlocked the badge for 50 books for the Mini Winter Reading Challenge website. A fantastic achievement!



In Reception, the children have been working on their handwriting. Here is August in RKO doing a terrific job!

In maths, the children have been learning about tally marks. Here, Elias in RSL has made a tally mark chart for the number of different shapes he can see in the rocket picture. He also cut out the shapes and made the 2D rocket. Well done, Elias!



Many congratulations to Inaaya in 1RK who has achieved the gold certificate in Mathematics! This is a great achievement and one she should be very proud of.



Despite not being in school, Year 5 have been investigating forces using homemade Newton meters.



This week, children in 4HS enjoyed catching up with each other in breakout rooms at the end of the school

day. Doing this more often was a request put forward by the school councillors, after consultation with their classes, at the school council meeting last half term.



Many congratulations to these pupils who received a Headmaster's Commendation this week.

In Year 2, the children have been reading 'Jim and the Beanstalk'. They were asked to put themselves into the character's position and write thought



bubbles for that character in different parts of the story. Here, the giant is deciding whether or not to eat Jim!