



# Idle Church of England (Aided) Primary School

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*"Jesus came  
to give Fullness of Life"*  
John 10 v 10

Newsletter 2

9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

It was absolutely lovely to be able to welcome all the children back to school this week. The children all had a great time in the sunshine, meeting their new teachers and seeing their friends again. Thank you for your cooperation with the new routines and procedures. The school gates (including the back gate) will be opened at 8:45 every morning and at 3:20 for EYFS and 3:30 for the rest of school in the afternoon. Thank you for leaving the site promptly both in the morning and afternoon as this enables us to quickly secure the site. We will keep you updated with any changes.

**Covid Procedures:** Our aim this year is to maximise the number of children in face to face education and minimise disruption. We want our children to be able to have as near-normal an experience at school and it is great to have children not restricted in bubbles. To help keep our school community safe, we are continuing to follow the advice of the Department for Education to reduce the risk of spread of Covid-19. We have enhanced levels of cleaning, increased ventilation in classrooms and are promoting hand hygiene. We cannot wait to be able to welcome parents back into school. However, due to Covid rates in the local area, we will not be inviting parents to celebration assemblies yet and we will wait on further guidance for this. We realise that this is disappointing for you but the safety of our school community is our priority. Thank you for your understanding.

**Isolation:** Please also follow the government guidelines on when to isolate as stated below.

Isolation is no longer required for those who have been double vaccinated (14 days after 2nd dose) or those aged under 18 in the following circumstances:

- If identified as a close contact
- If in a household where another householder has tested positive or is symptomatic

However, test and trace recommend that contacts as described above have a PCR test.

Isolation is required:

- For all individuals who are symptomatic (they should get a PCR test as soon as possible)
- In the case of a positive LFD test while you await a PCR result
- Those with a positive PCR result (for ten days following 1st positive test or for ten days from onset of symptoms)
- Those who have not been double vaccinated, are over 18 and have been identified as a close contact.

Home learning will be provided for pupils who are isolating at home but well enough to study. This will be provided through Class Dojo. If you have any problem accessing this, please do contact your class teacher or the school office.

**Lunches:** All our school meals are cooked by our fantastic kitchen team. The menu is available on the school website to show you the range of meals available. We are finding that lots of children choose a cheese panini or a jacket potato for their lunch over the main dinner of the day. Please can you look at the options with your child and encourage them to have a full dinner so they can truly benefit from a balanced school lunch.

**Scooters and bikes:** As you will have seen at the front of school we now have a scooter (under the buggy park) and bike stand. These are a great way to travel to school, so please feel free to leave the bikes and scooters onsite during the day. As they are left at your risk, we do encourage you to bring a lock. We can't wait to see

these facilities being used! Please make sure that the scooters and bikes are not ridden on the school site (including younger siblings) to prevent accidents. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Book swap library:** As you will have seen on the school Facebook page, we have got a KS1 and KS2 book swap library under the buggy park. These are stocked with age-appropriate books that the children will enjoy reading. Please feel free to bring a book you no longer read and swap it for a new one.

**Homework:** Idle is celebrating a year of reading! A newsletter will be sent soon full of ways the school are promoting reading and ideas for you to try at home. For this reason, we would like you to spend the majority of your homework time reading at home. Make sure you fill in your child's reading diary to show what texts they have been reading. In Years 1 - 6, every half term your child will also complete creative homework based on "What has inspired me?" during their learning that half term. This is based on an area that they have studied in school e.g. in science, topic or English. This might be research, a story or a presentation. These are compulsory and due in Friday Week 5 (8<sup>th</sup> October).

Each half term your child will also receive a mental health and a Christian Value themed homework. These will be based on the themes being focused on in class.

We will continue to share our weekly spelling focus words with you on Class Dojo but spelling tests will not take place. Instead, we are embedding these words in your child's learning throughout the week. Your child will continue to have access to Times Table Rock Stars and we will notify you of any additional resources you can access at home. More information about homework will follow from your class teachers.

**School uniform:** The children are all looking very smart in their school uniforms again! For **Years 1-6**, to ease with congestion on PE days, please can your child come in black/grey/navy jogging bottoms/shorts and trainers on their PE days, with their normal school polo shirt and jumper/cardigan. The PE days will have been confirmed in your class newsletter on Class Dojo.

**Head Teacher Post:** Following Mr Bowers' resignation last academic year, Mrs Pouncey was appointed as our Interim Head Teacher to enable a smooth transition through this period of change. The Governors are starting their recruitment process now for a permanent Head Teacher, with the intention of making an appointment before the October half term break with the support of the Local Authority and Diocese.

Yours sincerely,

*Mrs R Pouncey*  
Interim Head

