

14.1.22 Update

Dear Families

It certainly has been a busy first full week back. A few highlights include Year 2 visiting the Castle Museum, 4M enjoying their first Ukulele session, children from Year 5 and 6 representing the school at the next stage of the Cross Country competition and not forgetting our regular whole school Zoom. Even though we are not physically together, the togetherness we share on screen is a joy to see! However, we also know some children have had to stay at home this week. Juggling the guidance we are working under to keep everyone safe whilst keeping school going as happily and safely as possible is always our priority. Thank you for continuing to support us and keep us informed of your circumstances. We do hope everyone is safe and well and taking care of each other and yourselves.

COVID-19 Cases and Changing Regulations

Because we have had an increase in cases in school this week for some of our year groups, we are required to seek advice from the Public Health management centre; they are satisfied with the measures that we continue to have in place. This includes the decision we made to keep our year groups separate this year, including playtimes and when using the dining hall. We do want to reassure you that, despite this, there are plenty of smiles and lots of laughter in school. Seeing children playing together and learning together, with the sun shining too, makes school still a great place to be!

We have continued to inform you if there is a case in your child's year group. Due to the changes in LFD results not needing follow up PCR tests currently, we are finding out more quickly where we have positive cases. From Monday, if we are aware of cases before 8.00am, we will inform families before school. All other cases reported for that day will be informed at the end of the school day. We want to continue to let you know of cases to give you as much information as we can to help you make decisions about whether to do LFD tests or whether to monitor your child's health more closely.

We want to send our very best to everyone who is isolating at home at the moment. Please let us know if we can help you and your family in any way. As you may know, from Monday the guidance around isolation changes. Isolation can end with a negative LFD test on Day 5 and Day 6. Once there are two consecutive LFD tests, with a 24 hour gap between tests, isolation can end. We have updated our guidance on the school website, to reflect this.

If you need to let us know about any issues relating to Covid cases over the weekend, please send them to office@st-williams.norfolk.sch.uk Thank you

Ventilation

One of the measures we continue to have to support clean air is to keep our classrooms well ventilated; we have CO2 monitors in our classrooms to help with this. Our classrooms are therefore not very warm as we do have windows open! Please make sure children come dressed so they are comfortable in this environment.

Free School Meals

Some families are entitled to Free School Meals for financial reasons. This is sometimes complicated by the fact all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 get a Free School meal regardless of income. Children from this age range who are entitled for financial reasons still need to apply for them to access a wider range of benefits including supermarket vouchers in the holidays or they are isolating, and access to free holiday activities. The link below takes you to the page to apply for Free School meals; please take a look if you think you might be entitled.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

We have another busy week planned next week, which includes Year 3 visiting the Castle and an author visit for Years 4, 5 and 6. Please take a look at the news page on the website for more information.

Take care everyone and have a safe and happy weekend.