



Downside Primary School

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Headteacher: Miss Karen Hooker

12th November 2021

Dear parents,

The last two weeks have been incredibly busy in the school. Our Year 4 children have now completed their visits to **Waddesdon Manor** and our Year 5 children have been on their trip to the **Sealife Centre**. Last week we celebrated **Parliament Week** – all classes learnt something about Parliament and we had a visit from Rachel Hopkins, our local MP. Rachel spoke to all children in Years 3-6 about her role, Parliament and answered some fantastic questions posed by our children.

I am also pleased to share that our pink non-uniform day raised just under £900 for Breast Cancer – this money has been donated in memory of one of our local Headteachers, who died from breast cancer earlier this term.

Thank you to all those parents who have come into school as part of the Relationships Education consultation. As a reminder, if you have any comments regarding the curriculum, these should be emailed to the school by Monday 15th November. Governors will then look at any comments, at their next meeting.

Parents dropping off children

I have been asked to remind parents not to block our neighbours' driveways when dropping children off at school. Blocking driveways is starting to have a detrimental impact on our neighbours – who at times do not have the freedom to leave their house when they want, as they are blocked in.

As noted before, I am also incredibly concerned by the number of children who appear to just leap out of cars outside the school gates. In the last two weeks, I have seen one child jump out of a moving car – which nearly made her fall over and another who dropped their bottle when jumping out of the car, and nearly went under the car to retrieve it. Please if you drive your child to school, park in a suitable place, where it is safe for your child to leave the vehicle.



Covid

We continue to have children and staff who have Covid in our school. One issue we are facing is children are still coming in to school when they are waiting for a PCR test result. As a result, we have had children who have tested positive for Covid coming in to school.

As a reminder, if your child has a PCR test they must **stay at home** until they get their result. Please call the school if you are unsure what to do in any situation; the team will be able to explain any guidance to you.

Please continue to be vigilant around the signs of Covid and give your child a lateral flow test or book a PCR test if your child has any of the symptoms below:

- High temperature
- New continuous cough
- Loss of smell or taste

Luton schools all have a number of baseline expectations which we are following, in particular:

- **Ongoing and consistent cleaning of frequently touched surfaces** – we have a cleaner on site all day, who is cleaning these areas.
- **Keep occupied spaces well ventilated and use CO² monitors as they become available** – we have a number of CO² monitors. These are being rotated around classrooms and where they detect high levels of CO², teachers are opening more windows. This does mean that some classrooms are cold, so please ensure your child has a jumper in school every day. There is a fine balance around trying to keep the children warm, whilst also ventilating a classroom!

As Covid levels continue to be high in Luton, the Local Authority is recommending that schools implement an additional measure: **Face coverings in communal areas**. We would therefore encourage any parents coming in to the school building to wear a mask. In particular, we would encourage parents to wear a mask if they collect their child from the Reception classrooms – this is an area where many parents are gathering inside.

Key upcoming dates:

- 15th, 16th, 18th November – Year R visits to the library – letters have been sent regarding this trip
- 15th / 16th November – Year 4 Ancient Greece event in school
- 19th November – Children in Need – children should pay a 'fine' of £1 or more to wear non-uniform for the day; you will be able to pay in cash or online

Wishing everyone a great weekend!

Yours sincerely,

