

Dear Parents, Carers and friends,

This has been a challenging half term for us to keep open and going. We have been hit hard with lots of staff absence, mainly due to Covid. A huge thank you goes out to all the staff who have adapted and helped to keep school up and running by doing lots of other jobs other than their own. We were very close to class closures and unfortunately Preschool did experience some session closures – this is not a decision we take lightly as we know how it impacts on families and we would only activate a closure when we are unable to safely staff and operate. We are hoping that with the summer weather, we are all together and everyone – children and staff are in school.



Our newsfeed gives a wonderful insight into the world of everything Wybunbury Delves! Please check in with it regularly to find out about your child's learning and other enrichment opportunities school provides. Our news feeds directly into our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Please acknowledge your read of the news with a like or comment! Questions cannot be answered directly off our Facebook or Twitter feeds so please direct these by email to the office.

Covid Update

From tomorrow we enter another new stage in 'Living with Covid' – free PCR testing and LFD test kits will no longer be available for the vast majority of the population. The Government guidance about infection states:



From 1 April, updated guidance will advise people with symptoms of a respiratory infection, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel unwell, to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. Until 1 April individuals should continue to follow the current guidance.

From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.



We are still awaiting updates from Cheshire East and school's health and safety consultants regarding the need for Covid absence- we will provide updates if needed.



This last half term, we have seen a return of the usual common childhood illnesses – chicken pox; sickness bug, colds, chest infections and sore throats which are non-covid. Please continue to be vigilant and help to reduce the transmission of any illnesses around our school community

This half term has seen many fantastic learning opportunities and experiences for our children.

Science Week – Thank you to Mr Dale for organising Science week this half term. We had great fun all week across school!



Edale residential – Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic 3 days in the Peak District in glorious sunshine completing adventurous activities. A huge thank you to Mrs B, Mrs Whittingham and Miss Welch for taking them and to Mrs Lawlor for all the hard work in organising it!

World Book Day – Thank you to Miss Haynes and the teaching staff of thinking of some great ways to promote our love of books and reading! The book spoons were fantastic! And it was lovely to see the whole school dressed up for the day!

Comic Relief was organised by our Y6 fundraisers. The bake sale was very popular! Thank you for your support for this event.



First Aid Week Thank you to Mrs Pointon for organising our first First Aid Week! And to Mr Harrison-Blount for coming into school to deliver some of the sessions across the week. The children have enjoyed finding out about how they can help, look for dangers and make a difference.

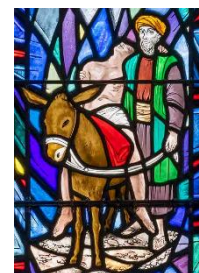


Defibrillator School have purchased a defibrillator as we feel it is a vital piece of kit we need in school just in case a need should arise, hopefully it can make the difference and save someone's life. It is housed in the school office. It is bright orange and hangs on the wall. It is available for anyone with need whilst school is open.

Mothering Sunday Tea and Cake with Reception – It was lovely to welcome a family member to the Reception Garden to celebrate the LOVE, care and support our families provide to each other, the wonderful sunshine made it a beautiful event. Thank you to Mrs Ward and Mrs Wainwright for organising this.



On the 23rd March it was the **National Day of Reflection** and we reflected on the pandemic. We thought about how it has changed our lives, what is different now, what we are **thankful for** and what our hopes are for the future. Our school windows were filled with daffodil messages.



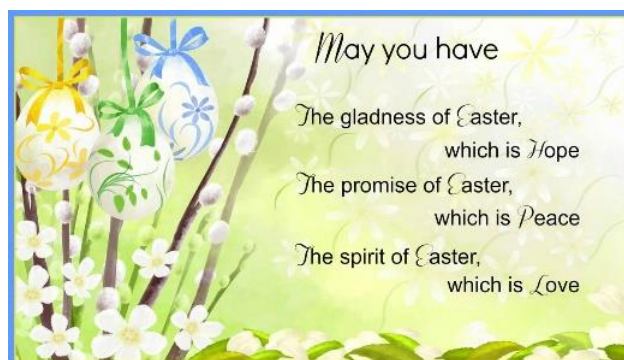
Ukraine In school we have created a reflective prayer area in the hall to think about the people of Ukraine and offer prayers and messages of hope to all those living through this difficult situation. We focused on the story of the Good Samaritan to illustrate how we should all give a helping hand to those in need. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the Nantwich schools collection for Ukraine. Mrs Ward was able to deliver a car packed full of things to Bridgemere School who had co-ordinated the collection. Their hall was full. Your generosity will make a difference to people in need.



Easter will be celebrated in school as we return on Easter Tuesday. We are hoping to offer Reception parents a Messy Church session down at St. Chad's and Y5/Y6 will be leading an Easter Service on Friday 22nd April 9.30am at St. Chad's – further details of these events and how to book will be made available shortly. Unfortunately, numbers for both events will be limited.

We wish Hope, Peace and Love to the world this Easter time.

Reverend Alison has been a regular visitor to school, leading worship once a fortnight. You are all warmly invited to St. Chad's, their All Age Worship is the first Sunday of the month. It was lovely to see some of our families attending the St. Chad's Mothering Sunday Cup Cake decorating last Saturday.



Clubs

We will be running some clubs after Easter. The bookings will be made available after Easter and clubs will start from Monday 25th April. A Sportscoaching Group flyer is attached with this newsletter, places for these clubs need to be booked directly with them.

Parent Evening It was so lovely to welcome parents/carers back into school this week for parents evening. Another step back to normal events and routines!



Preschool They have been celebrating national days this half term – 1st March was St. David's day for Wales and 17th March was St. Patrick's day for Ireland. And having lots of Spring fun and learning. Preschool is full now for next term and we are taking bookings for September, priority will be given to children due to start school in September 2023 for places initially.

Reception 2022

We are looking forward to finding out who will be joining our reception class for September 2022! Primary Offer day is 19th April this year. Once the offers have gone out to parents/carers, you have 10 days to accept/decline places offered. We will send out our new starter information pack after that point.



School Payments



We thank families for keeping on top of any monies owed to school through using ParentPay. Our extended school services are run as businesses outside of the school budget. They have to meet their running costs and any profit is used to enhance the services and school resources. We have to monitor non-payment of services and take action if outstanding payments reach a threshold. This will be defined as:

- £25 per child for school dinners debt *or*
- £75 per child for OOSC *or*
- Preschool invoice not paid within 4 weeks *or*
- Total debts to school services (Dinners/OOSC/Preschool) exceed £100 per child

Once the threshold has been reached, school will contact you regarding the outstanding payment. Non-payment towards services used could lead to the use of them being withdrawn for your child.

Please can you check your ParentPay accounts and settle any outstanding payments in readiness for the new half term. Thank you.



Free School Meals / Pupil Premium: If you qualify for Free School Meals (FSM), regardless of whether you are in Reception, KS1 or KS2, there are benefits to be had both to yourselves and to school. Even if you find yourselves in a temporary situation of low income and at that point meet the Free School Meal criteria, school receives Pupil Premium for the period of receiving FSM and for 6 years afterwards. It is completely confidential if you do qualify. School can use Pupil Premium towards visits/visitors/part payment towards residentials – you will have noticed

this option on letters and ParentPay. It is only available to those which qualify. Pupil Premium is used in school to further resources and staffing, it cannot be used to subsidise OOSC. Cheshire East website has further information of this very simple process of applying for FSM.

Income related free school meals (IRFSM)

If your child is in receipt of income related free school meals, they are automatically eligible for the [Household Support Fund](#).

You can claim free school meals for each child who attends school in Cheshire East if you receive one of these benefits:

- Universal Credit with no earned income or with net monthly earnings less than £616.67
- Income Support
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit

- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Phone 0300 123 5012 for further information and help. Or access the Cheshire East website: https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/school-meals/free_school_meals.aspx

Holiday Activities and Food Programme – Through government funding Cheshire East have a programme of free activities for children who are in receipt of income related free school meals across the school holidays. More details and how you book places can be found on their website: <https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/holiday-activity-fund.aspx>

Attendance: It is expected that your child is in school every day and our attendance target is 97%. Covid has brought many challenges to attendance. The government expectation is that every child is now attending school.

As will have seen in the news, the government are making a big thing about attendance at school and they are asking schools to challenge poor attendance – below 90%. We currently have many children who are below 90% mainly due to Covid.

We ask that medical appointments are, as far as possible, made outside of school hours. If they cannot be arranged at this time, please provide school with a copy of the medical appointment letter for our records. If you take a sibling out of school to attend their brother/sister’s appointment, this is an unauthorised absence as the appointment does not relate to them and should only happen if you genuinely have no alternative. This also related to appointments for the parent, we cannot authorise a child’s attendance as it is not their appointment. Sometimes when your child is ill it is difficult to decide whether or not to send your child into school, the NHS have produced this useful guide.

Please be mindful that whilst much of our focus on illness has been connected to Covid over the past 2 years, the more regular illnesses are still about! In particular, we have seen cases of sickness and diarrhoea over the last few weeks – this does require a 48 hour absence after the last bout.



When should my child return to school?

Chicken Pox When all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis None*	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever None*	Hand, foot & mouth None*	Impetigo When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies After first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek None*	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice None*	Threadworms None*	Tonsillitis None*		

Fixed Penalty Notices apply to all types of unauthorised absence, not just those accrued through holidays in term time. Holidays within term time cannot be authorised by school.

If 10 or more unauthorised absences (1 absence = ½ day) are accrued over two consecutive terms then school will consult the LA on the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The cost of which is £60 per parent per child if paid within 21 days increasing to £120 per parent per child to be paid within 28 days - if remains unpaid, will be processed to Court for prosecution. These Fixed Penalty Notices have been introduced as part of the government's drive to improve attendance. Please see our attendance policy on the website.

Governors – This term we have welcomed three new Governors to our team. Mrs Camilla Du Pavey was elected by the parent body to be our new parent governor; Dr Sam Samuel and Mrs Julie Gover have been elected as Foundation Governors via the church. We look forward to working with them over their terms of office.



I'm sure, like the staff at school and myself, you're looking forward to the Easter holidays and some much needed family time, rest and enjoyment of our local area or beyond!

Kind regards

Mrs Chesters and the Wybunbury Delves Team

COVID UPDATE

The DfE have issued the following information yesterday on [The Education Hub blog](#).

What's changing?

Regular asymptomatic testing in mainstream settings hasn't been recommended since February. From Friday 1 April **we will no longer be recommending regular asymptomatic testing in SEND, Alternative Provision and Children Social Care Settings.** In the event of an outbreak, a local health protection team may advise some targeted outbreak testing in residential SEND settings.

FAQ's

Q. Why do you no longer recommend Covid testing in schools, colleges, or other education settings?

A. Following expert advice, we now know that **Covid presents a low risk of serious illness to most children and young people**, and most of those who are fully vaccinated.

Due to high immunity in society, a greater understanding of the virus and improved access to treatments, we can now focus on how we live with COVID-19.

*That means **we don't expect pupils or staff in education settings to routinely test themselves for COVID-19.***

Outbreak testing will be available in residential SEND settings where it is advised by the local health protection team, especially to counteract the risk of closure due to staff absence

*We continue to encourage young people to get vaccinated, you can **read more about the vaccine programme [here](#).***

Q. Should my child still go to their childcare or education setting if they test positive for Covid?

A. No. From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious. **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be three days.**

Q. Will my child's school or college still be taking measures to prevent Covid?

A. All settings should have in place baseline infection prevention and control measures that will help to manage the spread of infection:

- Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of national vaccination programmes including COVID-19 and flu.
- Ensuring occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in.
- Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as hand washing and cleaning.

Q. Can my child still get a Covid-19 vaccine?

A. From 1st April the in-school COVID-19 vaccination programme will come to an end. However, 12 to 15 year olds will still be able to access the vaccine outside of schools at a vaccination centre, pharmacy or walk-in centre. Parents can book a [Covid-19 vaccination appointment online](#) or by speaking to their GP or calling 119. Alternatively, they can find a [walk-in Covid-19 vaccination site](#).

From April, healthy 5–11-year-olds will also be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccinations will take place outside of schools in vaccination centres, pharmacies, GPs and walk-in centres. Parents of 5-11 year olds will receive a letter from the NHS with further information.

Wybunbury Delves CE Primary School

Term Dates for 2021/2022

Holiday Period	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Easter 2022	Friday 1st April 2022	Tuesday 19th April 2022
May Day 2022	Friday 29th April 2022	Tuesday 3rd May 2022
Summer Half Term 2022	Friday 27th May 2022	Monday 6th June 2022
Summer 2022	Tuesday 19th July 2022	--

Inset Days 21/22 (already included in calendar above):

- Friday 18th February; Wednesday 20th July; Thursday 21st July

Please note these dates take into account the additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – we have taken Friday 22nd July in lieu of the bank holiday.

Term Dates for 2022/2023

These dates follow the Cheshire East pattern of holiday dates, they do not necessarily match the dates of other local school who may have made different decisions about their holidays.

Holiday Period	Date of Closing	Date of Re-Opening
Summer 2022	Tuesday 19th July 2022	Monday 5th September 2022
Autumn Half Term 2022	Friday 21st October 2022	Monday 31st October 2022
Christmas 2022/2023	Friday 16th December 2022	Tuesday 3rd January 2023
Spring Half Term 2023	Thursday 16th February 2023	Monday 27th February 2023
Easter 2023	Friday 31st March 2023	Monday 17th April 2023
May Day 2023	Friday 28th April 2023	Tuesday 2nd May 2023
Summer Half Term 2023	Friday 26th May 2023	Monday 5th June 2023
Summer 2023	Thursday 20th July 2023	--

Inset Days 22/23 (already included in calendar above):

- Thursday 1st September; Friday 2nd September; Friday 17th February; Friday 21st July
Please note there is one other CDAT INSET day to be added to the calendar