

Ellwood Community Primary School



Bulletin - March 12th 2021

Welcome back!



First week back

We have had a great first week back. All the children have really enjoyed seeing their friends again and have been really keen to get back to their classroom activities.

You may find that the children are a little tired by the end of this week as they are all settling back into the school routine.

Playdates / Sleepovers /picking up and collecting other children

Please be reminded that children are still not able to attend playdates with other children, go to their houses or have sleepovers. Even though the children may be in the same bubble at school this does not mean they are allowed to mix outside of school. Families are only able to mix with their 'exclusive' support or childcare bubble. This also applies to dropping off and picking up other people's children. You are only able to collect another person's child, if you are in their bubble. This guidance will be reviewed by the government in the next few months but currently is still relevant and needs to be adhered to.

COVID - 19 Symptoms

If a child feels unwell please seek medical advice or a test and do not send them to school. Children can be asymptomatic and do not always show the three common symptoms.

- High temp
- Loss of smell / taste
- Cough

Symptoms of COVID-19 in adults and particularly children can look like symptoms of other common illnesses for example :

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Nasal congestion or runny nose
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach ache
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle or body aches
- Poor appetite

If you notice any of these symptoms in your child., please seek advice as they could be positive but without the three main symptoms

You are able to order Lateral Flow Tests for families if you have school aged children and these can be carried out at home. Please follow the link below on how to order the tests.

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Healthy Start Vouchers

Please visit the link below for further information on claiming vouchers, if you are pregnant or have a child under the age of 4 and claim benefits.

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/healthy-start/>



Easter Chocolate Raffle Donations

Many thanks to all of you that have already sent in chocolate donations for our Easter Chocolate Raffle. If you haven't donated yet and still wish to do so, we would really appreciate your chocolate donations. Donations can be anything from a chocolate bar, a bag of chocolates or an Easter egg. We are grateful for any donations big or small.

If donations could be sent in by Wednesday 17th March that would be fantastic. This allows us time to put the hampers together and photograph them for you to view, before the tickets go on sale.

The raffle will be held in a similar way to the Christmas Hamper raffle, where you will be able to buy a square which will then be entered into a draw. You may buy as many squares as you like with squares costing £1 each. Squares will be available to buy week commencing 22nd March, with the draw taking place on Wednesday 31st March.

Many thanks for your continued support.



Uniform Ordering

Brigade have informed us that the deadline for Summer Uniform ordering is 1st August 2021. For further information please visit the Brigade website:

www.brigade.uk.com

Thank you.



ParentPay—Dinner Debts

Please can parents/carers ensure dinner debts are cleared as soon as possible. If the debt is too much to pay in one go you may pay off part of it at a time, if this makes it more manageable.

Many thanks to those parents/carers who have cleared their debts.

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Friday 19th March

To support Comic Relief and Red Nose Day, children may come to school in wearing non-uniform and something red. If you would like to donate some money to Comic Relief we will be collecting donations on the day. You may donate as little or as much as you would like to.

Thank you.



Reading

It seems like a long time ago since we set the Christmas reading challenge. Thank you to those who have completed it. A small prize will be given out to those who managed to do it.

We will be expecting all children to read four times a week as part of the homework expectations. Reading records will be checked in class every Thursday. We will continue to count the reads towards the reading bands challenge.



School Dinners

From next week children will be able to order either a sausage roll or vegetarian sausage roll on a Monday and Friday. There will also be the usual Ham, Cheese, Egg and Tuna baguette available to order.

Monday

Baguette (Ham, Tuna, Cheese or Egg)

or

Sausage Roll / Vegetarian Sausage Roll

Tuesday

Baguette (Ham, Tuna, Cheese or Egg)

Wednesday

Baguette (Ham, Tuna, Cheese or Egg)

Thursday

Baguette (Ham, Tuna, Cheese or Egg)

Friday

Baguette (Ham, Tuna, Cheese or Egg)

or

Sausage Roll / Vegetarian Sausage Roll

An Introduction to Rapid Self-Testing for COVID-19

The importance of testing

The ultimate aim of testing is to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19. As many as one in three people with COVID-19 show no signs of having it, that is they are 'asymptomatic'.

Testing helps us to identify and isolate more asymptomatic people who test positive and are therefore, more likely to spread the virus, at the same time as minimising disruption for those who test negative.

The benefits of self-testing

Self-testing for COVID-19 is simple, quick and can be carried out at home without the need to attend a test centre or post samples to a lab for analysis.

How the device works

The self-test kits are lateral flow devices. The device detects the presence or absence of COVID-19 by applying a test sample to the device's absorbent pad. The sample runs along the surface of the pad showing a visual positive or negative result. Results are ready in 30 minutes. Tests come in packs of 7.

What you need to do



Receive or collect the test package



Carry out the test
[Watch How To Video](#)



If you test **positive**, you should book a confirmatory PCR test. This can be done via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

We would advise visiting a community or drive through test site as this is the quickest way to get tested, or you can order a home test kit. It is important that you self-isolate until the result of your PCR test.



If you test **negative**, no further action is required until the next test, but remain vigilant to COVID-19 symptoms. If the test is **void** (invalid) please take another test as soon as possible.

It is very important that you read the comprehensive [Step-by step guide](#) that comes with the test kit. There is also an additional infographic [How to Do a Rapid COVID-19 Self-Test](#) for your information. Tests should be conducted twice a week, 3 to 4 days apart, and preferably at the beginning of the day.

To report your result you need the barcode on the test strip (or the ID number under it). You must report your result either online at www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result or call **119** (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Please also report your results to your employer.

Thank you

On behalf of NHS Test and Trace, may we take this opportunity to thank you for participating in this crucially important drive to make your school and local community safer, and to return to life as close to normal as possible. For further general help on self-testing please visit our [FAQs](#) or Department of Education coronavirus (England) helpline on **0800 046 8687** (Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm).

Rapid Regular Testing Site

A third rapid, regular testing site has opened in Cinderford. Please follow the link below for further information about testing.

[Third rapid, regular testing site to open in the Forest of Dean - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

NHS
Test and Trace

Parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges

A guide to regular rapid Covid-19 testing



Regular rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and bubbles.

Regular rapid testing is a fast and easy way to find out if you have coronavirus and help protect your loved ones and community. It's free and takes around 30 minutes.

Why introduce regular rapid testing?

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

Regular rapid testing is now available for parents of nursery, school children and college students. As well as adults in their households, childcare and support bubbles.

Regular testing for people without symptoms is already taking place across the country. Thousands of people who didn't know they had the virus have been able to take action to stop the spread of the disease.

As lockdown restrictions ease, getting into the regular habit of twice weekly testing will play an important role in getting back to normal; alongside the vaccine, following the hands, face, space guidance, and social distancing measures.

Regular testing for school staff and students

Regular rapid testing is already available to all staff at nursery, primary and secondary schools and colleges.

Secondary school and college students aged 11 and above will continue to access regular rapid tests directly through their school or college. And we continue to encourage them to get tested.

On return they will initially be supervised while testing at school and then continue to test themselves at home with test kits they will get from school or college.

Nursery and primary school children are not being asked to be tested as evidence continues to show that children and young people are at low risk from Covid-19 and are very unlikely to get seriously ill.

What is the benefit to you?

By taking part in regular rapid testing, you'll be protecting yourself and your loved ones. And helping us all get back to a more normal way of life.



Eco School Competition Winners and Entrants

Oak Class



Year 5



World Book Day

World Book Day was a huge success. We had a wonderful day celebrating the event. We set lots of different activities for the children to do throughout the week and all of the teachers received some fantastic photos of children taking part. Each child should have been given a World Book Day token which can be exchanged for a free £1 book or can be put towards the cost of a more expensive one. They were originally sending them electronically, but this was changed as a last-minute arrangement.

Thank you to all of the children who took part in the World Book Day competitions. We had lots of wonderful creative entries and decided that all of the children deserved a prize to recognise their hard work.

Here are a few more photos of world book day work that weren't shown in last week's bulletin.

Elsie —Year 5



Alesha-May—Year 5



Riley N — Year 4



Ruby H —Year 5



Year 1

Year 1 have been learning about materials - they went on a material hunt and described what the materials felt like.



Year 1 have settled in well - their reward in the Autumn term was to take part in parachute games if they filled the marble jar. The children achieved this and had lots of fun with the parachute.



PE with Eric - The children really enjoyed playing to play cricket.



learn-

Playing with the new toys



Diary Dates

March

- Wednesday 17th March - Deadline for Chocolate Hamper donations
- Thursday 18th March - Year 3 Multi-sports (After School Club)
- Friday 19th March - Red Nose Day
(Non - uniform: wear something red to school)
- w/c 22nd March - Easter Raffle - squares go on sale
- Monday 22nd March - Archery Taster Day
- Thursday 25th March - Year 3 Multi-sports (After School Club)
- Thursday 31st March - Easter Raffle Draw

April

- Thursday 1st April - Break up for Easter
- Friday 2nd April - Good Friday
- Monday 19th April - Return to School