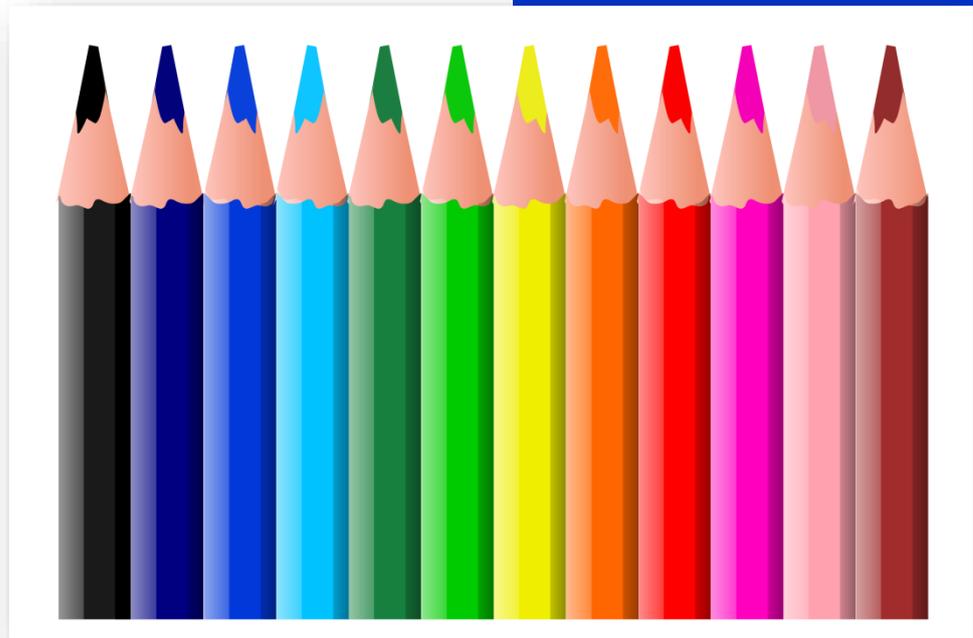


23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

## Covid 19 update for Parents



Here's what you need to know in 5 minutes...

- Thank you...
- Attendance
- Half term arrangements
- A message from Hertfordshire Local Authority
- Important timings change from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- Ongoing plans
- Maths Whizz
- Achievement Assembly

Christina Singh

Nascot Wood Junior School

# Thank you

Many thanks to all the parents for supporting the work of the school through this extraordinary half term. Your calm acceptance of the necessary changes we have had to make, and your positive attitude to our plans, have enabled us to run the school smoothly, ensuring that your children have received their usual high-quality education. We are very grateful to you all.

## Attendance

Here are the most up to date attendance percentages, in comparison to the equivalent period last year. You will notice that the percentages are an improvement on the attendance data from 2019, which is a considerable achievement, given the difficult circumstances.

Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that your children have high attendance at school; it remains the most important factor for their ongoing progress and attainment.

Attendance Percentage 2020		Comparative attendance 2019	
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	97.91%	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	96.67%
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	97.07%	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	95.56%
Wednesday 21 <sup>th</sup>	97.07%	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	95.19%
Thursday 22 <sup>th</sup>	97.91%	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	95.19%
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	94.54%	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	92.96%
Average percentage	96.9%	Average percentage	95.1%

## Half Term arrangements

Today, we have had an email from the Local Authority asking us to communicate with you regarding the half term arrangements for reporting Covid 19 cases.

In the unfortunate circumstance that your child tests positive for coronavirus, please notify us as soon as possible, so we can complete the relevant tracking and tracing process.

Please contact us using the following email: [admin@nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk)

Please ensure that the subject heading is as follows to ensure that your email is not missed:

**Covid 19 information**

# Message from Hertfordshire Local Authority

Below is a message sent by Hertfordshire Local Authority explaining what parents need to do if they are self-isolating:

*If you are a parent or carer and have been asked to self-isolate as part of a bubble at work or because you have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus – you must follow the national self-isolation guidance and stay at home for 14 days: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/how-long-to-self-isolate/)*

- *This applies even if you have no symptoms and/or you have received a negative test result as it can take 14 days for transmission*
- *Self-isolation rules do not apply to the rest of your household, they can still attend work or school and complete day to day tasks in line with Government guidance*
- *If you develop symptoms while self-isolating, your entire household must begin self-isolating immediately*
- *If you would normally travel with your child(ren) to nursery, school or college, alternative arrangements should be made*
- *If you cannot make alternative travel arrangements for your child(ren), then they too must stay at home. Please contact your school or education setting directly for advice on remote learning in this situation*

*Please do not send child(ren) to school if they have any symptoms of coronavirus. If you're not sure, consult the online NHS symptom checker at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)*

*Only book a test if you or your child(ren) develop symptoms, book at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 if you do not have internet access.*

# Important Timings change from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November

From *Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November*, the gate will be open from *8.30am to 8.50am* each morning.

Children will be greeted by Mr Watts and me, as usual, and sent straight into their classes. As there will be a shorter window for the children's arrival, the school gate is likely to be busier.

If this is the case, please could you ask your child to queue *briefly* outside the Langley Road gate, whichever side is appropriate to the way they come to school. You will notice that we have footprints marked on the pavement to give a social distancing guide.

If there is a need for the children to queue, Mr Watts and I will manage the queue and bring the children in swiftly; the children will not be queuing for a prolonged length of time.

Please ensure that your children arrive *before the gate closes at 8.50am*, as we do not want to put the Office staff at any additional risk, due to close contact with any late arrivals.

At the end of the day, we will continue to operate the same system of dismissal. The *only* change will be that years 5 and 6 will be dismissed at the new time of *3.15pm*, and years 3 and 4 will be dismissed at the new time of *3.20pm until 3.30pm*.

*The dismissal time each Friday will continue to be from 12 noon for children in years 5 and 6, and collection of children in years 3 and 4 will begin at 12.10pm. (Please read additional information in the ongoing plans section)*

As previously stated, the reason for this is that we have a statutory duty to provide all Class Teachers with Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time each week. Normally, members of the teaching staff would work closely together to ensure that the curriculum is equitably planned across each year group. This close collaboration would normally take place in a small planning room. Once the children have left on a Friday, the Teachers are able to stay in their classrooms and meet in a socially distanced way to plan for your children.

As well as providing a safe working space for our staff, this approach also allows your children to be taught consistently by the same staff members, where at all possible.

We will keep all our procedures under regular review, and will communicate any proposed changes to you in a timely fashion.

## Ongoing plans

With the rise in the covid 19 R rate, and the number of areas that have been placed in tier 2, I have decided to maintain the early closure on Fridays at the moment.

As I have told you, this is for two reasons:

Firstly, it allows Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants to plan and prepare in their classrooms, rather than moving around the school, occupying smaller planning spaces and, secondly, it allows me to limit the number of adults who are working with your children, retaining the groups of 30 children and two adults.

The idea of this is to limit the number of children who are asked to self-isolate and be absent from school, should we have a positive covid 19 case.

Balanced with these considerations is my understanding of the difficulty that this poses for busy, working parents. I will therefore be considering this matter again after half term, in the hope that we can find a safe, workable solution that allows us to reinstate Friday afternoons for your children.

I will write to you in the first few weeks of next term with an update.

With many thanks for your understanding.

# Maths Whizz

Several parents have spoken to me about Maths Whizz, and our progress with the 200 subscriptions.

Thank you to all the parents who have subscribed so far; we have reached 160, which includes 22 assisted subscriptions for children in receipt of Free School Meals.

We are particularly keen to be able to take advantage of this subscription offer from Maths Whizz, as it will be a very useful resource for the children if they have to have time at home self-isolating.

I have decided to extend the window for subscription in the hope that we will reach our target during half term. If you want to subscribe, please do so by paying on School Gateway by Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Unfortunately, the school is not in the financial position to be able to fund the additional subscriptions, as we have done in the past.

Many thanks for your help with this.

# Achievement Assembly



In this week's assembly, I was joined by Beech class and some of our new House Captains.

The children will be shown this recording in their classrooms, and you can also access it on the school's facebook page:

<https://www.nascotwoodjm.herts.sch.uk/page/?title=Achievement+Assemblies&pid=1202>

I hope you enjoy it,

*Christina Singh*

Headteacher