



Website www.stowlawnprimary.co.uk

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Newsletter: January 2024

We hope you have settled well into the New Year, but I can't believe we are barely a couple of weeks into the half term and the next break is not too far away! Children are working hard trying to fit their new learning into 3 weeks less than they had last half term but are doing a good job and it is always a pleasure when children make a special trip to see me to show me the progress they are making. Once again this term, the hard work of both the children and the staff has been recognized through another award – The Inclusive Schools Quality Mark – details of which can be found below.

The main talking point over the past few weeks has been the increase in the cases of measles across the West Midlands. I have added bits of information as we get them onto Class Dojo, but on this newsletter you will find more of the recent up to date advice we have received. This is a very serious disease for children who have not been vaccinated so if you do suspect your child has any of the symptoms please do not send them into school and seek advice as noted below. All the information and advice in this newsletter has been issued by The Black Country or Local Authority NHS senior practitioners.

As ever, if you have any questions and queries about any aspects of school, please contact myself or the school office, speak to staff on the gates in the morning, or class staff on the doors at collection time.

The Inclusive School Quality Mark

As a school we strive to be inclusive for all our children and families. Over the last few months Mrs Whitehouse, supported by Mrs Glover, has been gathering evidence of all we do to present to an external assessor. We were visited by the assessor just before Christmas and we are now extremely proud to announce that we have officially been awarded the Inclusive Schools Quality mark. These are just a few of our favourite comments from the report:

The children arrive in school looking smart in their school uniform and ready to start the day's learning with smiles and laughter seen and heard down the corridors.....

From doors being opened without hesitation for each other, positive interactions between all staff and children in and out of the classroom, helping to tidy up and help others to ensure that each staff request is completed to high standards, children are encouraged to be as independent as possible (per stage) but also request help when they need it. This inclusiveness is fully embedded into the heart of the school which has a 'positive family togetherness' feel.

In fact our visitor was so impressed with what they saw that we have been recommended to become an Inclusive Centre of excellence. This award is not only for children and staff, but is also a reflection of the support that you give us to ensure we offer our children the very best opportunities whilst supporting all of the diverse needs of our Stowlawn Family!





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Measles Update

What is measles?

Measles is a very infectious virus, which spreads quickly if people have not had the MMR vaccine. Two doses of MMR are needed for maximum protection – MMR is not usually given until around a child's first birthday. A version of MMR is available which does NOT contain pork ingredients.

Measles can cause severe illness, especially in certain at-risk groups including babies and small children, pregnant women, and people with weak immunity. Complications could mean hospitalisation, permanent disability, and in rare cases, it can even cause death.

What are the symptoms of measles?

- cold-like symptoms such as runny or blocked nose, sneezing and cough
- red, sore watery eyes
- high temperature (fever) which may reach around 40°C / 104°F
- a non-itchy, red-brown rash usually appears 3-5 days later (sometimes starts around the ears before spreading to rest of the body), spots may be raised and join to form blotchy patches – which may be harder to see on darker skin tones

What do I do if a child has suspected measles?

If children have symptoms of measles, please tell them to stay at home. Parents they should not bring their children to the setting (school) with any symptoms of measles.

Suspected measles may cause concern. Advice is available on the NHS website, UKHSA webpages, NHS 111 and from the GP. However if the child has symptoms then parents should NOT go to their GP practice or any other healthcare provider – instead, phone the surgery or 111 for advice and say it could be measles.

Children under one year of age are unlikely to have been vaccinated, therefore care should be taken in mixing age groups with children below one year.

If measles is diagnosed

- If pupils have measles, they should be off school until 4 days **after** the rash begins
- if anyone has been in recent contact with a case and is at risk of developing measles (eg unvaccinated siblings or friends that have been in contact recently) they should stay off school for the incubation period (21 days after contact with a case of measles)

See information below about pop up vaccination clinics being run across the area this weekend :

MMR vaccine clinics

Sandwell:
Saturday 27 January, 9am-1.30pm, Wood Lane Community Centre,
Wood Lane, West Bromwich, B709PT.
To book an appointment call 0121 592 1110.

Walsall:
Saturday 27 January, 9am-1.30pm, South & Central Locality Hub,
Birchills Street, Walsall, WS2 8NF.
To book an appointment call 01922 902035.

Saturday 3 February, 9am-3pm, vaccination van located outside
Poundland/Pep&Co in Walsall Town Centre, Lower Hall Lane,
St Matthews Quarter, WS1 1PU.
Walk in, no appointment needed.

Wolverhampton:
Saturday 27 January, 10am-4pm, Park Village Education Centre,
Cannock Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 0RA.
Walk in, no appointment needed.

Saturday 27 January, 9am-3pm, vaccination van located at
Bilston Market, Pinfold Street, Wolverhampton, WV14 0DN.
Walk in, no appointment needed.



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Dates For Your Diary

These will be added to through the year as other dates and events are organised. If you have not been informed about any trips or visits yet then keep an eye on class dojo for upcoming information.

Monday 29 th January	Year 3	Visit to Wolverhampton Art Gallery
Tuesday 30 th January	Year 5	Visit to Wolverhampton Art Gallery
Friday 9 th February	Year 5	9am Chinese New Year assembly for Year 5 parents
	Whole school	Break up for half term weeks holiday (normal time)
Monday 19 th February	Whole school	Return to school
Thursday 22 nd February	Year 2	Visit to Black Country Museum
Tuesday 27 th February	Whole School	Parents evening appointments (3.15 until 4.30pm)
Wednesday 28 th February	Whole School	Parents evening appointments (3.15 until 5.00pm)
Friday 8 th March	Reception classes	9am – Mother’s Day assembly for Reception parents
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 1	9am – Easter Assembly for Year 1 parents
Friday 22 nd March	Whole school	Lunchtime finish for Easter holidays Nursery - Normal time 1.00pm – Reception 1.05pm - Years 1 ,2, 3 1.10pm – Years 4 and 5 1.15pm – Year 6
Monday 8 th April	Whole School	Return to school
Thursday 2 nd May	Whole School	School closed to be used as polling station
Monday 6 th May	Whole School	School closed for May Bank Holiday
Monday 13 th May	Year 6	SATS week
Friday 24 th May	Whole School	Break up for half term holiday
Monday 3 rd June	Whole School	Return to school
Friday 19 th July	Whole School	Lunchtime finish for summer holidays

Academic Year 2023 / 2024 remaining INSET day –school closed to children :
Monday 22nd July 2024 (children break up at lunchtime on Friday 19th July).