



# NEWSLETTER

## 05.03.2021



### St David's Day – 1<sup>st</sup> March

On Monday Caterpillars and Ladybirds learnt all about St David's day.

Saint David's Day, or the Feast of Saint David, is the feast day of Saint David, and falls on 1 March, the date of Saint David's death in 589 AD.



Saint David (Welsh: Dewi Sant; Latin: Davidus; c. 500 – c. 589) was a Welsh bishop of Mynyw (now St Davids) during the 6th century. He is the patron saint of Wales. David was a native of Wales.

After listening to the story of St David, we went on a nature hunt to see if we could find any daffodils and signs of spring. We took photos of our findings and used pastels to draw our pictures.



### Reception class and Years 1 and 2 baked Traditional Welsh cakes as part of Food Technology.



Traditional Welsh cake recipe to celebrate St David's Day



**Ingredients (Makes 15 Welsh Cakes)**

- 225g plain flour
- 80g caster sugar
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp mixed spice
- 100g butter (Or half and half butter and lard mix.)
- 60g currents
- 1 egg
- tablespoon of milk
- extra butter or lard for cooking

**How To Make Welsh Cakes**

1. Combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and mixed spice in a bowl and rub in the fat until it resembles bread crumbs.
2. Stir in the currents.
3. Beat the egg and stir it into the dry mix until it forms a rollable dough, like pastry. If it is too dry add a tablespoon of milk.
4. Roll out on a lightly floured board until it's about twice the thickness of pastry. Cut into rounds.
5. Melt a knob of butter or lard in a frying pan and fry the Welsh Cakes on a medium heat for a few minutes on either side until golden brown and cooked through.
6. Serve hot or cold with butter or sugar.

**What else happened at school this week?**



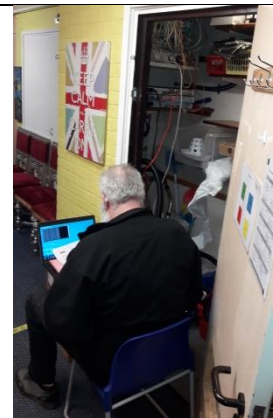
**Mrs McEwen, Miss Adams and Mrs Spanton, worked really hard to clean up the shed.**



**A very tidy shed inside!**



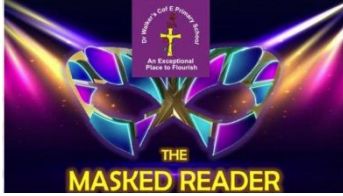
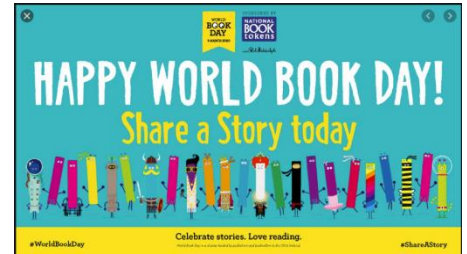
**We welcome our new cleaners from Ever Brite, who started with us this week:  
Mrs Jennifer Smith and Ms Samantha Hunger.**



**Virgin installed the fibre connection for our school's IT.**

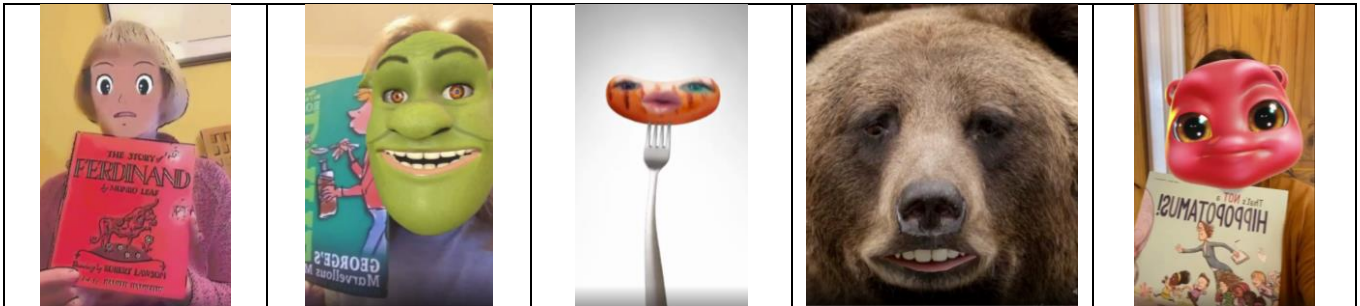
## World Book Day – 4<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading. Their mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own. We want to see more children with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them. Designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, World Book Day is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.



Mrs Debrah-Nkansah arranged a number of fun activities for us on our school's website.

Who were the masked readers?



And we dressed up!



Reception and Years 1 and 2

Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Staff also dressed up!



### **Parent/Carer survey on Remote Home Learning**

As part of reflection and good practice, we would appreciate some feedback regarding the period of Remote Home Learning. A google survey link has been sent this morning.



Please complete this survey by Friday, 12th March.



To help make us make our school a better place, we need the expertise and advice of the local community. **Please contact the school office if you can offer or know of any tradesmen that can help the school:**

- Handyman
- Carpenter
- Electrician
- Plumber



### **Volunteers – painting of the school interior**

If there are any volunteers willing to help decorating/painting classroom interiors over a weekend (towards Easter), please let the school office know.

Thanks to those who have volunteered so far! We will be in contact.

### **Parent governor vacancy**

There is a vacancy on the governing body for a parent representative. Please contact the school office if you are interested to stand. We will then email you a form to be completed and request two recommendations. An election will take place if there are a number of candidates. A copy of the terms of office will also be emailed to interested individuals.

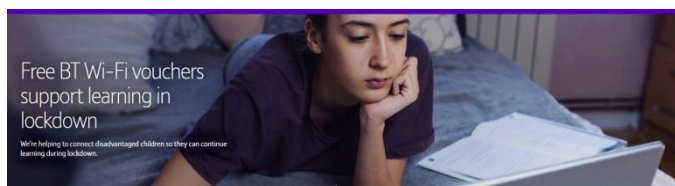
### **PTA**

Please contact the school office if you are interested to join the Parent Teacher Association for more information. A number of staff has already shown an interest.

The main aim is to be involved in fundraising and social events for pupils, parents and teachers – **OUR COMMUNITY!** The goal is to provide extra resources and, in some cases, making it possible for activities such as school trips to happen.

### **BT free WiFi codes**

BT has made available a substantial number of free Wi-Fi voucher codes for schools to distribute to pupils aged 16 or under, who don't currently have adequate access to internet connectivity at home.



### **How will the Wi-Fi voucher codes work?**

Each Wi-Fi voucher code will allow access to the internet on up to three devices at a time, for free, until the end of July 2021. Access will be provided through BT's network of over 5 million Wi-Fi hotspots around the country and includes comprehensive content filtering.

Please let the office know if you are interested and eligible, as we need to apply for these.

## School Menu

Our kitchen staff has updated the weekly menu for those on site. The 3-weekly menu is published on the school's website. We are continuing to offer balanced hot meals daily for those on site.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<i>Reception Class (Caterpillars) have the daily option to choose a hot meal or the packed lunch for the day (see below)</i>					
<b>Choose your main</b>	Pepperoni Pizza	Sausage & Gravy	Roast Chicken	Homemade Beef Lasagne	Omega 3 Fish Fingers
<b>Vegetarian Option</b>	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Vegetarian Sausage	Roast Quorn Fillet & Gravy	Homemade Vegetarian Lasagne	Omelette
<b>On the Side</b>	Baked Beans Salad	Mashed Potato Carrots Peas	Roast Potatoes Yorkshire Pudding Carrots Cabbage	Broccoli Crusty Bread	Chips Peas Sweetcorn
<b>Lighter Bite</b>	Jacket Potato Baked Beans or Cheese	Cheese or Sausage Panini	Chicken or Cheese Panini Salad	Jacket Potato Choice of fillings or Wrap with choice of fillings	Fish Finger or Cheese Panini
<b>Pack Lunch in classrooms</b>	Pepperoni or Cheese & Tomato Pizza Or Wrap with choice of fillings.	Cheese or Sausage Panini	Chicken or Cheese Panini	Wrap with choice of fillings.	Fish Finger or Cheese Panini
<b>For Dessert</b>	Ginger Sponge & Custard (no custard for P/L) Fresh Fruit	Shortbread Biscuit Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Mousse Fresh Fruit	Flapjack Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt Fresh Fruit

Also available daily: Bread, Salad, Fresh fruit, Yoghurt. Fresh milk or water.

# 8<sup>th</sup> March

Please have a look on the school's website for updates, as we have uploaded an updated Risk Assessment.

### **Schools coronavirus (COVID-19) operational guidance**

We have reviewed and updated our risk assessment to reflect the latest announcement and operational changes including plans for asymptomatic testing and contingency plans for outbreaks or changes in restrictions.

#### **Summary notes:**

- All primary school children are to return on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**. Attendance is deemed mandatory.
- Primary school staff will continue to take two lateral flow COVID-19 tests, each week, at home.
- Primary age pupils will not be tested with lateral flow tests.
- Face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible, outside of the classroom.
- There is no need for class sizes to be adjusted from the usual size.
- No educational visits should take place at this time.
- Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) staff is advised not to attend the workplace.
- The advice for pupils who have been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable is to shield and stay at home as much as possible until further notice.

#### **Please note the following:**

#### **Bubbles:**

The school will operate a two bubble system at all times. This includes staff and pupils.

- Bubble 1: Reception and years 1 and 2
- Bubble 2: Years 3, 4, 5, 6.

### **Staggered school start in the morning.**

- Reception and Years 1 and 2: to start at 08:55.
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: to start at 08:45.

### **Staggered home time in the afternoon**

- Reception and Years 1 and 2: to be collected at 15:10.
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: to be collected at 15:15

### **Breaks**

Pupils will have a morning and afternoon break of 15 minutes each to support emotional wellbeing and spending time with friends. KS2 breaks will be reviewed in April.

### **Lunch times**

- Lunch will be an hour. 30 minutes to eat and 30 minutes play outside.
- As we will adhere to bubbles, only one bubble will be in in either the hall or outside on playground.
- Hot meals will be provided in the hall.
- All doors will be kept open in the hall to aid a well-ventilated space.
- The integrity of bubbles will be kept by spacing pupils out at tables.
- Once pupils have collected their meals, they will be seated at the table and not move around.
- Tables will be cleaned by adult between bubble transitions.

### **Which gates to use to help with the one-way system?**

- Reception and Years 1 and 2: Enter and drop off at the black alley gate and exit by the wooden office reception gate. The same for collection at the end of day.
- Years 3, 4, 5 and 6: Enter and drop off at the green gate in car park.

### **How we will minimise COVID risk?**

- We will be providing hand sanitiser to pupils on entry.
- All pupils will again use hand sanitiser on leaving the school premises.
- All pupils will wash their hands with water and soap before snack and lunch times.
- Pupils to keep their reading books in class in tray and not transfer these between school and home. It is recommended to have a separate reading book at home.
- Government has advised the following: In primary schools, it is recommended that face coverings should be worn by staff and adult visitors in situations where social distancing between adults is not possible (for example, when moving around in corridors and communal areas). Children in primary school do not need to wear a face covering.
- If a child comes to school wearing a face-mask due to using public transportation, this needs to be either handed over to the accompanying adult or placed in a zip locked bag.
- Guidance from government and DfE states that staff can move across classes within the bubble. Staff will be expected to wear a face mask when not in classroom.
  
- Classrooms will be deep cleaned once per week using a fogging misting sanitising machine.
- Please make sure to keep social distancing of 1 - 2 metres when bringing you children to school and collecting them.

### **PE provision**

- We will still have SCS coaches in school this term to provide PE on two days per week. Please make sure pupils come to school dressed in full PE kits.
- Also bring a bottle of water, labelled with the child's name on it.

### **House points**

We will continue to make use of house points.

### **Red writing**

Reflection time will still be implemented, but placed at the outside library and supervised.

### **Clubs**

- We will not be offering after school clubs at this moment in time, other than that offered by the SCS coaches.
- This will be reviewed next term.

### **Guidance on the use of face coverings in primary schools and early years settings**

From Monday 8 March, new advice applies to the use of face coverings by staff, pupils and students in schools and further education in England.

In primary schools and early years settings it is recommended that staff and visitors wear face coverings where social distancing cannot be maintained between adults. These measures will be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep this under review and update guidance as needed.

Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering and they should not be asked to wear one. Dr Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, has said *that “the consensus among educationalists, public health and clinical specialists is that it is not advisable for primary school children to wear face coverings. That is why Public Health England has not recommended to the Department for Education that they should be worn by primary pupils in the classroom. Children need to see facial expressions to develop their communication and language skills and practically, they can have difficulties keeping them on all day.”*

### **Travelling to school safely**

As part of your ongoing communications with your pupils and their parents, you may wish to share the following messages on how pupils can travel to and from school safely:

- if you live a short distance from your school or college, walk, cycle or scoot to and from school wherever it is possible and safe to do so
- avoid sharing a car with anyone outside of your household or support bubble
- if you are using public transport to get to school or college, plan ahead and allow more time for your journey
- when you are travelling by public or dedicated school transport, don't forget to:
  - wear a face covering (unless you are exempt, including if you are aged 11 and under). It is important you wear them for the entirety of your journey, including inside a bus or train station
  - social distance where possible
  - wash or sanitise your hands regularly
  - be considerate to fellow passengers and staff.

### **Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college**

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing.

Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. You should not give test kits to parents, carers or household members and should not order more test kits for this purpose. Secondary school and college students will continue to access testing through their school or college.

Please share the information below with your parent networks to help answer any questions they may have.

Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles.

Tests are fast, easy and completely free. There are different ways for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site – anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests
- by ordering a home test kit online – please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm.

Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

### **Department of Education Coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education settings and children's social care.

<b>Phone:</b>	<b>0800 046 8687</b>
<b>Opening hours:</b>	<b>Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm</b> <b>Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 6pm</b>

### **Press release regarding the arrangements for schools returning from next week**

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-prepares-for-return-to-schools-and-colleges>



#### **Essex prepares for return to schools and colleges**

With a phased return to the classroom for secondary school and college pupils set to start from **Monday 8 March**, settings are currently putting arrangements in place for pupils to take part in asymptomatic Covid-19 testing as per the latest Government guidance.

The Government has stated that secondary schools and colleges should offer three rapid Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) to pupils as they return to on-site education and that the return of secondary-age pupils can be flexible to allow for this to take place.

This is aimed at identifying positive cases more quickly and breaking the chain of transmission within the school community.

It is down to each individual secondary schools or colleges to decide how they fulfil this guidance and there are two options for schools and colleges to use.

Schools and colleges have the option of offering all three tests on site and flexibility in terms of how they organise pupil's phased return from 8 March.

Alternatively, Essex County Council (ECC) has put in place increased community testing capacity so that pupils could take the first of these three LFTs in advance of their return to school or college. If schools decide to use this option, the second and third tests would then need to be taken on the school site three to five days apart.

Community testing would be carried out at one of the existing rapid testing centres across Essex. Additional capacity to support pupil testing only is also being put in place for the next couple of weeks in the form of three temporary rapid testing sites in Clacton, Dunmow and Braintree.



Parents and carers will be sent specific instructions from their child's school or college about what they need to do and are encouraged to speak to their setting if they have any questions or concerns.

Testing is voluntary and will not be done unless consent has been given. It is also not a determining factor for whether pupils are able to return.

However, it is something that is being strongly encourage so that potential transmission of the virus within the school community is reduced.

If they are taking part in testing, pupils can return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. Once these three initial tests have been carried out, pupils will be provided with rapid tests to be carried out twice a week at home.

If they test positive, they will need to self-isolate immediately in line with current Covid-19 guidance and not return to school until this is complete.

The results of these home tests must be reported to NHS Test and Trace as per the instructions in the test kit as soon as the test is completed (results will be given in around 30 minutes). The results should also be shared with your child's school or college, whether positive or negative, to support them with contact tracing.

The DfE is now also recommending that face coverings are worn by secondary-age pupils in classrooms, only where social distancing cannot be maintained and unless a young person is medically exempt from wearing one. Secondary and college pupils are already required to wear a face covering when moving around school buildings in corridors and communal areas, as well as when travelling to and from school on public transport.

### **Primary school pupils**

For primary school-age children, on-site attendance at school on and from 8 March will be mandatory.

The advice from Public Health England is that there is no requirement for primary age pupils to be tested for Covid-19 before returning. This is because there are limited public health benefits attached to testing primary pupils in terms of stopping the spread of Covid-19 and younger children are less likely to catch the virus.

Primary school pupils are also not required to wear a face covering at school, however adults may be asked to wear a face covering when entering the school site.

Cllr Ray Gooding, Essex County Council's Cabinet Member for Education, said: "We know how eager schools and colleges are to see children and young people back in the classroom. By increasing our community rapid testing capacity, schools will have greater flexibility in terms of how they are able to fulfil the Government guidance.

"If schools take up the offer to encourage their pupils to have a rapid test in advance of 8 March, this will help prevent pupils with symptoms spread the virus within schools when they return and make arrangements for subsequent testing in schools less onerous."

Dr Mike Gogarty, Essex County Council's Director of Public Health, said: "*We strongly advise parents of secondary-age children to get their children tested. By using our network of rapid testing centres, they can do so before children return to the classroom safe in the knowledge that they free of the virus.*"

### **Bible verse for the week**



Best wishes,

Dr Lawson  
*Headteacher*

3 March 2021

## **REGULAR TESTING OF HOUSEHOLDS OF SCHOOL PUPILS**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to you with information about a new national scheme which will enable households with a school-age child to access regular asymptomatic Covid-19 testing, and to encourage you to participate in this initiative. Any adults living in households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including their childcare and support bubbles, are now able to access free Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) to take twice a week at home.

One in three people who test positive for Covid-19 do not have symptoms and so regular asymptomatic testing continues to be a vital part of our response to managing the virus. This new approach to household testing will also help to support the easing of restrictions set out by the Prime Minister last week, starting with the re-opening of schools and colleges from next week.

As children and young people return to the classroom, we need to be sure that potential Covid-19 cases are found as quickly as possible and that measures are put in place to prevent them from spreading throughout the school community. Although cases are declining generally, we all need to continue to play our part to keep the virus under control and ensure children and young people can remain in education.

LFTs detect cases quickly – in under 30 minutes – meaning anyone who tests positive but who is not showing Covid-19 symptoms will be able to self-isolate immediately and reduce the likelihood of unknowingly spreading the virus further. You can access a free LFT in a number of ways, including through your employer if they offer testing to employees, at the local LFT site in your district, by collecting a home LFT kit from a test site, or by ordering a home test kit online. More information about these options can be found here: [Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

If you test positive following a LFT, you must inform your child's school or college and self-isolate along with the rest of your household. You will also be required to take a PCR Covid-19 test to confirm the result. If this happens, your child must remain at home with you during the isolation period and their school/college will provide access to remote education for them. There is support available if you are required to self-isolate, including financial support if you are unable to go out to work or work from home: <https://www.essex.gov.uk/support-if-you-are-self-isolating>

If your LFT is negative, this means the test did not find signs of Covid-19. It is vital that, even in this instance, you continue to follow all Covid-19 guidance around handwashing, social-distancing and wearing a face covering if you can, where

recommended.

This new regular testing approach for households is designed to minimise the spread of Covid-19 and support the successful return of more learners to face-to-face education. Testing is an additional measure, working in combination with other protective measures that are in place in schools and colleges to help protect students and staff. These measures together will help to support settings to remain a safe place to learn and work and ensure the learning of children and young people is not disrupted.

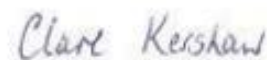
This new approach is for adults **only** and this includes a child's support bubble and childcare bubble. In addition to it, primary, secondary school and college staff are continuing to undertake regular testing. Secondary school and college pupils will also undertake regular testing which will be provided via their school or college. Primary school students are not being offered LFTs at this time but parents and carers should access a PCR Covid-19 test for them via the national booking system if they develop symptoms.

Thank you for your ongoing support to our schools and colleges and the wider community.

Best wishes



Mike Gogarty  
Director of Public Health and Wellbeing  
Essex County Council



Clare Kershaw  
Director of Education  
Essex County Council