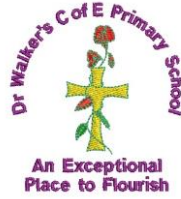


At Dr Walker's School we develop **Respect** and **Responsibility**.
Build **Perseverance** and **Creativity**.
Combine Christian values with **Courage** and **Compassion** for us to become successful British Citizens.



Friday 11th December 2020

Twitter - Follow us @drwalker_s

Twitter is also available on our website

Twitter is updated daily with School news - Follow us for regular news!

www.fyfielddrwalkersprimary.essex.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although we will be sending a final newsletter out next week for the term, I felt it was important to send you one today.

Covid Updates

Although I would like to talk about other areas of schooling first, by priority I must start with Covid updates. As you know we had a positive case in Year 5/6, closing the bubble down for self-isolation. For those children not showing any symptoms or testing positive within the bubble since, or not having a household member showing symptoms or testing positive, they are able to come out of isolation on Saturday 12th December. Well done Badgers for getting through the last two weeks.

In Year 3/4 class, we also had a positive case, closing their bubble down for self-isolation. Hedgehogs have actually been out of self-isolation since Wednesday 9th December (where no signs of symptoms or testing positive for themselves or anyone in their household has occurred). Due to staffing shortages however, Hedgehogs have remained at home for the remainder of this week. Once again, well done to Hedgehogs for getting through this difficult time.

On Monday 14th December, both Hedgehogs and Badgers classes will re-open.

School leaders are very much aware of the amplification that social media has played in Fyfield over the last two weeks. If you've been in dialogue with other families across social media, you have no doubt heard of additional positive cases occurring within the two bubbles that were closed. Self-isolation was the precautionary measure to ensure that the virus transmission did not spread out of the bubble groups – this has seemed to work. With this containment, I can confirm that PHE do not consider this spread within two of our bubble groups as an outbreak. That said, our thoughts as a community have and will remain with our families that have been dealing with Covid positive cases in the household.

To clarify, at the time of releasing this letter, we have had no other cases of COVID within the School setting, which is why Ladybirds and Caterpillar classes have remained open. We therefore look forward to a full opening of Dr Walkers from Monday 14th December.

It is essential that any child who has tested positive within Badgers and Hedgehogs, since being at home in self-isolation due to the bubble closure, does not return to School for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms. If you are unsure of your child's start date, do contact the School for guidance.

Christmas Holidays

The last day of term is Friday 18th December and the first pupil day of Spring term is, Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Photos and Cards

On Monday 14th December, Badgers and Hedgehog children will be given their School photos (individual/sibling) and any Christmas cards/gifts that were ordered. These have been in quarantine and we will place them straight into your child's book bag.

Parents Consultation

Due to the bubble closures, we were not able to complete parent consultations this term. We are very much aware of the need to update you as parents of your child's progress and time at School since September. The new Headteacher, Dr Lawson will release dates and details at the beginning of the Spring term. We thank you for your patience in this matter.

Staffing Updates

It saddens me to inform you that Mrs Walker will be departing Dr Walker's at the end of this term. Mrs Walker has been successful in her appointment as a Deputy Headteacher, at a School much closer to her home. We can't thank Mrs Walker enough for all that she has done for the School community in her time with us and I know all the children will deeply miss her, as will the staffing team.

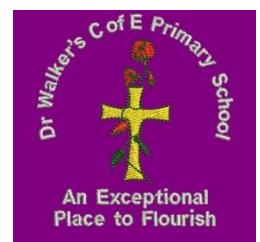
Mrs Walker, like most of you know, co-teaches the Year 1/2 Ladybirds class with Mrs Dawson. We are very pleased to inform you that Miss Adams, from Caterpillars, has been successful in her appointment as the new co-teacher for Ladybirds. She will lead the class on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and will support Mrs Dawson on Mondays and Tuesdays within the class, in effect giving the class two teachers in the class on those days. In addition to the above news, Miss Adams has successfully been appointed as a trainee teacher, through the West Essex SCITT, and will officially start this post at Dr Walker's from September 2021. Dr Lawson and myself have agreed that appointing Miss Adams from January 2021, will bring solidarity to the School's staffing team, and consistency for our children in Year 1/2, during what is a very unusual year. Dr Lawson will personally be mentoring Miss Adams from January, with Mrs Dawson working very closely with her to ensure all aspects of teaching and learning in Ladybirds remains at a high standard. We also thank Mrs McEwen, who will be supporting Miss Adams as the learning support assistant in Ladybirds.

With Miss Adams successfully beginning her teaching career, we have recruited Mrs Celia Snow, who will join the team from January, as the replacement learning support assistant in Caterpillars class, working Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. In addition, Mrs McEwen will be working with Caterpillars on Monday and Tuesdays.

We will also be welcoming to the team in January, Mrs Debora Platman, who is joining the office team as the School's bursar.

Finally, a reminder that Dr Lawson, your new Headteacher will be starting in January. I will remain the Headteacher up to the end of December to ensure the School has a full leadership across the Christmas period.

Thank you for your ongoing support,
Mr. Dale Bateman
Executive Headteacher



'a culture that is focused on pupils' well-being as well as their academic achievement'
Ofsted June 2019