

Dear all

It is hard to believe that we are into December, but heartening to know that 2020, unusual year that it has been, is nearly at an end!

We were thrilled to welcome back Year 2 today. After quite a lot of disruption this half term, it has been wonderful to have every year group back in school. I know that we are ALL hoping this continues for the next 2 weeks!

There is a lot of hard working taking place on preparations to celebrate Christmas in a variety of novel ways. More information about virtual events for you to enjoy will follow.

I'm pleased to say that Santa's helpers, the Highworth Elves, will be working to deliver Christmas cards across the school as usual this year. We have completed a risk assessment for them and I can confirm that they will be working in a Covid secure environment! If your child would like to send a Christmas card to their friends (or indeed members of staff), either within their own class or in another one, they should bring cards (addressed with name and class) any time between now and 11th December. The cards will be 'posted' by an adult. Distribution of cards will then start on Tuesday 15th December, after a period of quarantine. Sadly, we won't be able to accept cards for posting after Friday 11th.

Thank you so much for your support of the return of hot meals; we are almost up to pre-Covid numbers of orders and as a consequence, we have been able to warmly welcome back Mandy and Debbie, our 2 hardworking and dedicated servers.

On Tuesday, flu vaccinations are taking place at school (not for Nursery children). I was really disappointed to find that only 32% of our pupils are currently due to receive the vaccine. This is a safe, needle free vaccine (administered by a quick spray up the nose). Please consider giving consent for your child to receive the vaccine as it will protect them from flu and help prevent the NHS being overwhelmed (none of us want another national lockdown!). The details are in the attached letter and copied below.

My very best wishes for a happy weekend.

Clare Pankhania

Dear Parent/Carer

Your child's annual flu vaccination is now due

This vaccination programme is in place to help protect your child against flu, which can be an unpleasant illness and sometimes causes serious complications. This year, with COVID-19 in circulation, it's more important than ever that eligible groups are vaccinated to protect them from flu. The free flu vaccine will help prevent them getting the flu and is the best protection from the flu virus. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable friends and family by preventing the spread of flu.

The intra-nasal flu vaccine is the most effective protection for your child against flu. However, if in the past you have refused the intra-nasal vaccine due to porcine gelatine content, please contact the immunisation team on 01296 567860 as we may be able to offer an alternative vaccine to your child for this year and we can complete the consent form with you over the phone.

The online consent can be accessed via any online device. Please click on the following link <https://www.buckschildimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu> which will direct you to an online consent form for you to complete.

We will be visiting your child's school on **TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER** so please complete the consent form in full and use the following school code: **EE110403** by Thursday 3rd December 2020.

The vaccination is free and recommended for children and young people. It will be given by a quick and simple spray up the nose. Here is a link to a leaflet explaining the vaccination programme which includes details about the small number of children for whom the nasal vaccine is not appropriate:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/714954/PHE_Protecting_Child_Flu_DL_leaflet.pdf

If you require further information regarding the vaccines we offer please go to our Immunisation website which has full details of our service:

<http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/School-nursing/immunisations.htm>

If you have any queries regarding the Flu vaccine, online consenting or do not have access to the internet then please contact the Buckinghamshire Immunisation Team on 01296 567860.

Yours sincerely,

S Smissen – Immunisation Team Lead

If your child becomes wheezy or has their asthma medication increased after you have completed the on-line form, please contact the immunisation team on 01296 567860. If you decide you do not want to vaccinate your child against flu, please complete the consent form giving the reason. This will help us plan and improve the service.

For further information see: www.nhs.uk/child-flu