

Keeping in Touch – 5th March 2021

Dear all,

Without wanting to tempt fate, I really do feel that this could be the last of these letters that I have to write. None of us envisaged when schools first shut last March, that we would still be in this position a year later. There were lots of staff members, myself included, at that time who were joking about how it would just end up being an extra long Easter holiday – how wrong we were! But, as we look to welcome all the children back into school next week, it is with a confidence that we will not have to close in this way again. And in fact, that we are on the pathway back to school returning to ‘normal’. We do not underestimate the impact that the past year has had on each of our children, and all of you at home. But the routine, structure, stimulation, discipline and social interaction that school provides is a wonderful first step on the journey back to us all healing and growing from this experience. You can rest assured that we will always work with your child and you to address any need that they have, whether in their learning or wellbeing, now more than ever.

As part of our programme of supporting the children as they transition back into school, we have been working with Debs Clark from Vibes, who is our partner in the Wellbeing project we have started delivering in school to all children. She has created a bespoke package of ideas and activities for us to share with you. These will give you ways to connect with your child, help them to express how they are feeling, build their self-esteem and wellbeing, and help them to manage difficult emotions. These are all strategies that we need more than ever at the moment.

You will find all of these on the school website by:

1. Logging into eSchools as usual.
2. On logging in, the child’s class Dashboard is displayed.
3. Click on the Vibes logo near the top left hand side of the page.
4. Click on the logo and it will open up the Well Being page with all the videos and links to resources.



I hope that you enjoyed the World Book Day treat of listening to the Keevil Audiobook version of The Twits yesterday! Hopefully it helped make up for the absence of all the fun activities that we would usually do in school on this day. Remember to download your £1 book token by following the link on the page. We do also have paper book tokens in school now, so we will be handing those out next week. I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mrs Brown, whose wonderful idea it was and who worked very hard to get it all organised. Also to Mrs Watson for setting up the special webpage, and Miss Robinson for her support with this. And to all the members of staff who recorded themselves reading a section of the book – for many this was a step well outside of their comfort zone!

Wonderfully, we can look forward to enjoying some events together again now. Friday 19th March is Comic Relief day. Children are welcome to wear non-school uniform into school on that day. Although we won’t be collecting money within school at this time, we do encourage you all to donate to this great charity on-line at <https://donation.comicrelief.com/>.

On the following page you will find a letter from Helean Hughes who is the Director of Education and Skills at Wiltshire Council. This is in regards of the pledge the Government made last weekend to enable all households containing children who are attending school or college to access home-testing kits for Covid. These kits are NOT accessible through school. The stock we have can only be used by members of staff. The letter details how you can access these tests for your household if that is something you would like to do moving forwards.

On the third page you will find a calendar for the academic year 2021-21 showing term dates and TD Days. Hopefully this will feel like a real sign that normality is returning.

It just remains for me to say that we are all hugely looking forward to seeing all of the children (and you!) next week. Please refer to the detailed letter that was sent out last Friday (26.2.21) regarding all the arrangements for the re-opening of school, and if you have any questions please get in touch.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon

Dear parents,

I thought it would be helpful to provide an update on the latest government information on wider testing of households with pupils at school.

As you are aware, primary school pupils are not being tested at this time.

This week the government has announced that households with primary school, secondary school and college age children, including childcare and support bubbles, can test themselves twice every week at home as schools return from Monday 8 March.

[All households with children of school age to get 2 rapid COVID-19 tests per person per week - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-households-with-children-of-school-age-to-get-2-rapid-covid-19-tests-per-person-per-week)

Around one in three people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms but can still pass it on to others. Regular testing of people without symptoms (asymptomatic testing) is important to help stop the virus spreading.

Schools are not allowed to give test kits to parents, carers or household members. You will need to organise your own tests and this can be done via a number of options detailed below. Please be aware that further options are being explored, but for the moment you can organise a test as set out below:

- Via employers if they offer testing to employees
- At a local test site. Testing at these sites is assisted, which means you will swab yourself under the supervision of a trained operator. You may need to book an appointment. [Find your nearest rapid lateral flow test site.](#)
- By collecting a home test kit from a test site. You can collect up to four home test kits at a local collection point. Each kit contains seven tests. Anyone 18 or over can collect. You can check online if the location is busy before you go. [Find your nearest home test kit collection point.](#)
- By ordering a home test kit online. Please do not order online if you can get a test through other methods. This frees up home delivery for those who need it most. [Order rapid lateral flow home test kits](#)

The test will come with instructions on reporting test results. If anyone tests positive or gets coronavirus symptoms, they should tell the school and:

- self-isolate immediately
- get a PCR test to confirm the result
- follow the [stay at home guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection](#)

A negative result means the test did not find signs of coronavirus. But this does not guarantee you do not have coronavirus, so you should keep following all [coronavirus advice](#) including:

- regular handwashing
- social distancing
- wearing a face covering where recommended

There is also more [guidance](#) here on who can be tested and how you can get a test.

Please do not contact your school regarding household testing as they will not be able to provide any further information than we have shared above.

Thank you.

Helean Hughes

Director, Education and Skills

Wiltshire Council

Tel: 01225 718695

Email: helean.hughes@wiltshire.gov.uk

Web: www.wiltshire.gov.uk

	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21
Monday	8 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	6 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Friday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Saturday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Sunday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28

	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22
Monday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Friday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Saturday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Sunday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27

	Mar-22	Apr-22	May-22
Monday	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30
Tuesday	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31
Wednesday	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Thursday	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Friday	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Saturday	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Sunday	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29

	Jun-22	Jul-22	Aug/Sept-22
Monday	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Tuesday	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30
Wednesday	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31
Thursday	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25 1
Friday	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26 2
Saturday	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27 3
Sunday	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28 4

Bank and Public Holidays 2021/2022			
Christmas Day Holiday	27th December 2021	Term 1	36
Boxing Day Holiday	28th December 2021	Term 2	35
New Years Holiday	3rd January 2022	Term 3	34
Good Friday	15th April 2022	Term 4	30
Easter Monday	18th April 2022	Term 5	24
May Day Holiday	2nd May 2022	Term 6	36
Spring Bank Holiday	30th May 2022	TOTAL	195
Summer Bank Holiday	29th August 2022		

5 days are also available for professional training day closures during term time, set by the Headteacher and Governors of each school.
 Dates are correct at time of publication.