



NEWSLETTER – 13th March 2020

Upcoming Dates

- **Big Me Day – Wednesday 26th March**
- **Parents' Evening Week – Monday 30th March to Thursday 2nd April**
- **Thursday 2nd April – schools closes for Easter holidays at 3.20pm**
- **Teacher Training Day Friday April 3rd**

Coronavirus update – As will no doubt be aware, the Government announced yesterday that we are entering the second stage of their strategy to contain the spread and impact of Coronavirus. Schools currently are to remain open and therefore we continue to plan for upcoming events in as near a normal way as possible. This is an evolving situation and we will ensure we keep up to date with all official advice. If the advice changes, we will communicate this as quickly as we can.

In school, we are continuing to push the message of good hand hygiene and this will continue. Government advice is now that children wash their hands before leaving the house so I would be grateful if you could ensure this is the case. We saw how quickly the recent flu outbreak passed throughout school so I do ask that you do not bring children into school if they have developed a new cough or a temperature (we also ask that parents/carers who have even mild respiratory infections or a raised temperature do not come into the school). We have a number of our families who have a family member with immune-suppression or underlying health issues so it is important that we police this carefully, therefore we will be contacting parents quickly if we feel a pupil is demonstrating some symptoms that suggest self-isolation is required. Staff health will also be closely monitored.

The organisers of next week's proposed Wembley choir trip have postponed the event and it may be that further planned events may be subject to change.

We ask for the support of our wider community in these unprecedented times and I reiterate, should you or any of your family members believe they are demonstrating possible symptoms of Covid-19 or if you think you may have come into close contact with someone who may have been infected, please do not come into school.

If you wish to discuss any specific concerns, for example with regards to self-isolation, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

To help us track and monitor the reason for any absence, could you please ensure you leave a message on the pupil absence line which includes a reason for your child's absence – for example: vomiting, cough, high temperature, etc. Should you or a family member have a confirmed diagnosis of Covid-19 could you please speak to a member of the office team as soon as you can.

IMPORTANT – UPCOMING CHANGE OF CONTACT NUMBER – in the coming weeks the school contact telephone number will be changing, the new number has not been generated yet but, as soon as it is we will inform you and this will then be the number you will need to use to report an absence or speak to school staff.

Big Me Day – Just a reminder about Big Me Day on Wednesday 26th March, pupils can come to school dressed reflecting the job they would like to do when they grow up.

PTA Quiz – the first Holystone PTA quiz night was a big success last Friday, congratulations to the winning team and I know the feedback was that the night was a very enjoyable and another attempt for teams to be crowned the Holystone Champions of General Knowledge would be welcomed. So if you think you could get a team together to challenge the defending champions, then please watch out for news of the next quiz.

Community Police Officer Visit – we were delighted to welcome James our local Community officer into school on Tuesday. James spent time on the yard with one of his colleagues getting to know the pupils and helping reassure children that the police were there to ensure everyone's safety.

Taylor Wimpey World Book Day Donation – one of the local house-builders, Taylor Wimpey, visited school last Friday. One of their marketing executives read to the children in assembly (a story called "How we build your home") and afterwards they presented school with a number of copies of the book and a cheque for £200 to help stock our library. We are very grateful for this very kind donation.

Science Assembly – we had an explosive assembly in school this week. Scientist Dr Furze visited us to demonstrate some big science. There were lots of bangs and flashes as children learned about Helium and Hydrogen amongst other things. The feedback I have had from children suggests they had an amazing time.

Parking around school – we have had a couple of recent concerns raised by residents about parents blocking driveways at drop-off or pick-up time. One resident also reported being abused when challenging inconsiderate parking. We are aware of the challenges parents face, particularly on wet days when vehicle numbers increase however, I do ask that parents park legally and considerately in and around school. **Several £100 parking tickets have been issued recently and the police have indicated they will be doing regular spot checks at busy times.**