



Mill Water School

admin@millwater.devon.sch.uk | www.millwater.devon.sch.uk | 01395 568890

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Dear Parents and Carers

This week has been the busiest in school for a while and it has been a joy. The pupils have returned as if there is nothing untoward going on nationally and they've been back to it with a vengeance. It is testament to the staff and all parents/carers that the return has been overwhelmingly positive. Staff have been keen to share wow moments, home learning successes and I've heard a lot of "my goodness they're so tall".

This doesn't however, play down the enormity of the task that parents/carers have played in the recent months and I want to reassure you that we are still here to listen to your individual concerns and question about the return.

I will move to writing to you every other week, as I'm hoping there will be fewer updates from the government and the situation will remain stable. Of course, if the in house Covid situation or government road map changes, I will write more often.

Class 12 update

Class 12 have enjoyed being back together this week. A group went out on their bikes to practice and prepare for a Bikeability course happening later in the year.

In Maths, they have not only been working on their maths knowledge and understanding, but have also been working together and team building as part of their lesson.



Class 9 update

All pupils in Class 9 returned and were so excited to see their friends.

"We've had some good learning with our new topic of 'Life Cycles'. We had a session with some models of different stages of the insect life cycle with the children trying to guess what they would be when they were fully grown – guesses ranged from a T Rex to a sheep!

We've been to the sports barn for the first time in a year with our bubble and had lots of fun with a carousel of sporting activities.

Lots of phonics, maths and reading to get all the pupils back into routine, which some found a challenge, but have been superstars at saying they have found it tricky and asking for help. Also some Lego therapy which they've really enjoyed.

Lots of socialising time and getting used to being together again, and fun & laughter!"



Just a reminder that we are reliant on the availability of staff to deliver our usual curriculums, therefore if staff are absent due to childcare issues or non-Mill Water cases, we will have to adapt accordingly. Please bear with us as we manage this.

Devon County keep us up to date on what is happening in our area:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKDEVONCC/bulletins/2c5ae78>

The headlines for this week, as they affect us, are as follows:

- **8 Feb to 6 March 198 confirmed covid-19 cases in Devon**
 - Coronavirus case numbers in Devon are continuing to fall, although the rate of decline has slowed over recent weeks. Positive cases are currently highest in those aged 80 years and older, with rates slightly higher in East Devon.
- **Care home outbreaks are a reminder of how infectious this virus is**

- **Parents asked to do all they can to help prevent the spread of coronavirus**

- Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon, is asking families with school-age children to do all they can to help prevent the spread of coronavirus. The call comes as schools and colleges invited all students back to the classroom this week and pupils begin to be regularly tested using rapid, lateral flow tests.

“With the significant increase in the number of students becoming routinely tested, we are likely to see an upturn in the number of positive cases,” said Steve Brown.

“This is a good thing. We’re picking up people who have no symptoms, who if they weren’t tested could go on to transmit the virus to other people.

“We’ve seen a high rate of pupils returning to the classroom for face-to-face teaching, and really good take-up by them taking the lateral flow test.

“Any parents who haven’t yet given their consent for their child to be tested at school or college, I urge them to do so.”

Households of school-aged children are also encouraged to take two lateral flow tests a week, and can arrange to collect the home test kits from their nearest national testing centre, or there is home delivery by the NHS for those who can’t collect.

Alternatively, parents can have their lateral flow test at any of our local community testing centres, with results emailed and texted back to them within the hour.

We've set up community testing centres in locations across the county, with fixed sites in Exeter, Barnstaple and Tiverton; and mobile facilities serving Axminster, Exmouth, Honiton, Ivybridge, Newton Abbot, Okehampton and Tavistock. Tests should be booked in advance via our website.”

Wishing you all a happy and safe weekend.



Sarah Pickering
Head Teacher