



Mill Water School

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Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am happy to report that since all children returned to school on 8th March, we have had no positive cases within our school community, which is very encouraging. Staff are continuing to test at home twice a week and will continue to test over the Easter holidays.

More generally, Coronavirus cases are continuing to fall across the country, but are still above the levels seen last summer and early autumn. In Devon cases have been falling over recent weeks, and continue to be below the national average, but that rate of decline has slowed. Case rates are slightly higher in Eastern and Mid Devon and currently highest across Devon in those aged 20 to 39 years old.

Shielding advice for the clinically extremely vulnerable will stop from Thursday 1 April. In line with the government's COVID-19 Response - Spring 2021 roadmap, those on the shielded patient list will begin to follow the national restrictions alongside the rest of the population, but are still advised to take extra precautions to keep themselves safe. We expect staff who have been shielding to return to school on 1st April.

£30 supermarket vouchers to help families buy food over the Easter holidays

Families of pupils currently receiving free school meals will automatically be sent supermarket vouchers to help them buy food over the two week holiday to replace the meals their child would have received at school during term-time.

The vouchers – worth £30 (£15 per week for each child) – can be redeemed in major supermarkets across Devon. Arrangements are in place for families who cannot get to a supermarket.

Some of the supermarket vouchers issued for Christmas and February half term break remain unspent. Please check your vouchers and redeem them as soon as possible before they expire. You can email freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk or call 0345 155 1019 if you think you should have received vouchers but haven't.

Many families in Devon have seen their financial circumstances change due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. If you didn't previously qualify for free school meals but your income has recently reduced or stopped, please apply online through the DCC website to check if you are eligible for this support as soon as possible. It's the quickest and easiest way for your eligibility to be assessed and you will get an instant decision. You can also call 0345 155 1019.

More information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme is available on the DCC website.

Hopefully we will start to see some nicer weather after the April break. All pupils must have their own named sun cream in school please. Hats and sunglasses might also be needed (fingers crossed).

Please remember school finishes on Thursday 1st April and pupils return on Wednesday 21st.

Have a pleasant weekend.

Yours sincerely

S A Pickering