

Heltwate Round up

December 2021

www.heltwate.co.uk



A note from the Head

Advent is in full swing, and the meaning of Christmas shared. Children have discussed planning for Christmas with Mrs Claus, they decorated classrooms and the tree, they made a wreath, made reindeer food, wrote letters to Santa. Christmas Jumper Day was last week, and we have parties, panto and performances to look forward to. There is such a buzz of excitement.

The first term is coming to an end. Like the rest of the country, we have had staff and children absence and the occasional scare, but we have stayed open and had a great term. So, thank you for all your support helping to keep us safe and healthy.

We are starting to think about the January return. It has been advised by government that all secondary age children complete a Lateral Flow Test before they return on the 4th of January. We will send an LFT test kit home with every child. There is no legislation that primary age children should be tested but as a precaution if the rest of the household tests it will help to keep everyone safe and school open.

Now, the expectation in school is that if your child has cold and flu symptoms, a temperature, coughs, runny nose etc we do expect you to keep your child off school and get a PCR test and send the negative result to school before they return. This waiting period does not count against their attendance. If your child displays these symptoms in school, we will ask you to collect them and take them for a PCR test.

If your child, has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case. In line with the national guidance, your child is advised to take part in daily LFT testing for 7 full days since the last contact with the confirmed case. The date of last contact with a confirmed case is day zero. If your child has had a positive PCR test in the past 90 days, they should not take part in daily LFT testing.

Other members of your household can continue normal activities provided your child does not develop symptoms or test positive within the 7 day LFT testing period.

If your child returns a positive LFT test they need to isolate and book a PCR test immediately. This can be booked by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling NHS 119. If the PCR test is positive the child will need to isolate for 10 days from onset of first symptoms or date of positive LFT test if asymptomatic. If your child is well at the end of the 10-day isolation period after a positive PCR test, they will be able to return to school.

Please do not send your child to school if they are unwell.

If you are going abroad over the festive period our expectation is that you will follow the latest government travel guidelines, Testing and quarantining on your return.

Staff and secondary age pupils are wearing masks in indoor communal areas, and the expectation is that they will wear them on school's transport and for trips and visits. Please ensure they have masks with them, normal exemptions will apply.

I expect the rules will change again, but for now, what we have done has enabled Heltwate School to remain open for everyone and maintain good attendance and minimise the impact of Covid in School.

Let's continue to work together, a little bit of inconvenience now does prevent a whole load of pain later.

Enjoy the virtual Christmas shows.
Adam Brewster



Attendance

The whole school attendance percentage for the Autumn term is 90.8%. This is an expected dip from previous years due to the increase in COVID absences and the need to quarantine. Our attendance is significantly higher than the national average for special schools. For the week beginning 29th November, our attendance was 86% and the national average was 80%.

We would like to thank you for complying to all the changing circumstances and rules that COVID brings to attendance and appreciate you getting your child a PCR test if they are displaying symptoms.



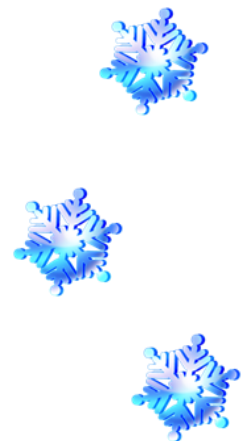
To report a school absence please either send a class dojo message or telephone the school office on 01733 262878 by 9.15 a.m.

If you feel there are issues other than illness that are affecting your child's attendance please do contact school. We want to work with you and your child to ensure that your child is able to attend and help in any way which we can.

Donation to school



A big thank you from us to BGL who have donated Christmas section packs to every child this year. Father Christmas made a surprise early visit to school last week to deliver them which was caught on film and shown to the pupils during their Christmas parties!



Charity in school

Thank you for supporting Children in Need and Save the Children Christmas Jumper day this term. We raised £244 for Children in Need and £120 for Save the Children.



HM Government

NHS Test and Trace

Help your kids keep everyone safer this **Christmas**

Encourage them to take a test before seeing friends and family, let fresh air in when meeting indoors and get their vaccinations.



Parent / Carers vehicles onsite

Please can we remind those who bring and collect their child into school that the school site cannot be accessed between 8.40 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. and 2.40 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. by parent / carer vehicles. If you do come onto site it obstructs and slows down school transport making everyone late. We have seen a more streamlined start and end of day with transport this term which is great. May we also thank you for parking respectfully on the road near to school as we have had far fewer complaints from local residents.



Class Dojo

Please make sure you are signed up to class dojo and regularly check it – we use it for all communication between school and home.



School Transport

All transport is managed by Peterborough City Council. If you need to speak to the transport team about your child's transport please ring 01733 317455 and NOT the school office.



Contact Numbers

Please make sure that you let the school office know if you change your phone number or move house so we always have the correct details for you.

School Dinners

Dinners are £2.70 a day for Years 3-6 and £2.90 a day for Reception, Year 1 and 2 do not need to pay.



Year 7 upwards. Pupils in

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for free school meals. Your child is eligible if you're in receipt of one of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400.
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for the four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Child Tax Credit (with no Working Tax Credit) with an annual income of no more than £16,190



The application is an online form which can be accessed from our website or from the link below:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/help-with-school-learning-costs/free-school-meals>

***School breaks up for the Christmas break on FRIDAY 17TH
December at 3.00 p.m.
Pupils return to school on Tuesday 4th January at 8.40 a.m.***

Christmas Fayre

Please don't forget to visit the Heltwate Christmas Fayre on Saturday 18th December. There are lots of lovely things to buy and experience.

