

14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

As you may already have inferred, through talking to the children or the number of letters regarding Covid-19 we have been sending home, the numbers of positive cases in the school have been steadily rising this week amongst the children.

I want to assure you we are following all the advice and guidance and have all the measures strictly in place in school. We now have two year groups in 'bubbles'.

This means that they are having their playtimes and lunch separately to the other children in the school. The bubbles need to stay in place for a minimum of 10 days. We are making all necessary tweaks to timetables so that they can still access the full curriculum. We will continue to monitor the situation daily.

I'd like to thank you all for supporting our efforts by being so vigilant for symptoms, for testing the children when you are concerned and for being so open and honest with the school. It really does make a difference. Please re-read the guidance I have attached to this newsletter, which was sent to you all during the week. This explains exactly what you need to do if someone has symptoms and if they test positive. We have noticed that with the children who have tested positive this past week, they have not presented with the 3 common symptoms. Most children have felt under the weather, sore throat, headache and had flu like symptoms. If your child is feeling unwell, please test them.

If you and your family members do test positive for Covid-19 and need any help, please contact the school and we will try and help in anyway we can. It is an incredibly difficult time for all of us, but we will do our best to support you all.

Lastly, I do want to thank all the children and staff, who have been tremendous this week, adapting to very last-minute changes to routines on a daily basis. They really do need to be commended for their resilience and for continuing to work as hard as they always do, in very challenging times.

### **Remote Learning**

Moving teaching online, would be **the very last resort**. However, in the very unlikely case that we do, I need to make sure everyone is confident with logging in and using Google Classroom. I know that teachers have been using it to communicate with you all since September. I have asked all teachers to set a task on Google Classroom as homework this week. Please make sure that your child logs into their account and replies to their teacher. If you have any problems with Google Classroom, please inform your child's class teacher and we will endeavour to help you to troubleshoot whatever the issue is.

### **February:**

7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>: Children's Mental Health Week

8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>: Parents' Evenings

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>: Half Term

### Parents' Evenings:

It was my intention was to host the parents' meetings in person in the Spring term. This is looking unlikely. The meetings are planned for the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Teachers will be in touch soon to organise the appointment times.

### Year 1 End of the day

From September the children in Year 1 were coming out to the playground slightly earlier than the rest of the school. This was intended to help the transition from Early Years and allow the Year 1 staff to get to know and recognise the children's parents. As of next week, the children will be coming out at the end of the day at 3pm in line with the rest of the school. Although gates open at 2:50pm, all children in Years 1-6 will be dismissed at 3pm.

### Friends of St Winifred's

The Friends and I had big plans for this term, however, they too are all on hold. Please see the attached flyer from The Friends asking for donations. Any unwanted Christmas presents you may have received, please donate them to the friends, as they will make fantastic Bingo prizes. They are also asking for Easter eggs in preparation for the children's Easter egg hunt at the end of this term.



### Technology Plea



The computers, printers and server in the school are over 10 years old in most cases, this in terms of technology is pre-historic. Obviously to buy new computers for every classroom and a new server costs a lot of money, money which we as a school just do not have. Staff are doing their best to keep all the equipment running, but we are at a point where things are just beyond saving. If there is anyone, who has any contacts in IT or has knowledge of any grants, funds we could access in order to update our system, could you please urgently contact the school.

### Food Bank

Please be reminded that the school's foodbank is open. If you would like to access it, please contact the school office. If you are able to donate to the foodbank, all donations will be greatly received. Thank you to those who had supermarket deliveries to the school this week for the foodbank. Your generosity is overwhelming.

### Reception 2022:

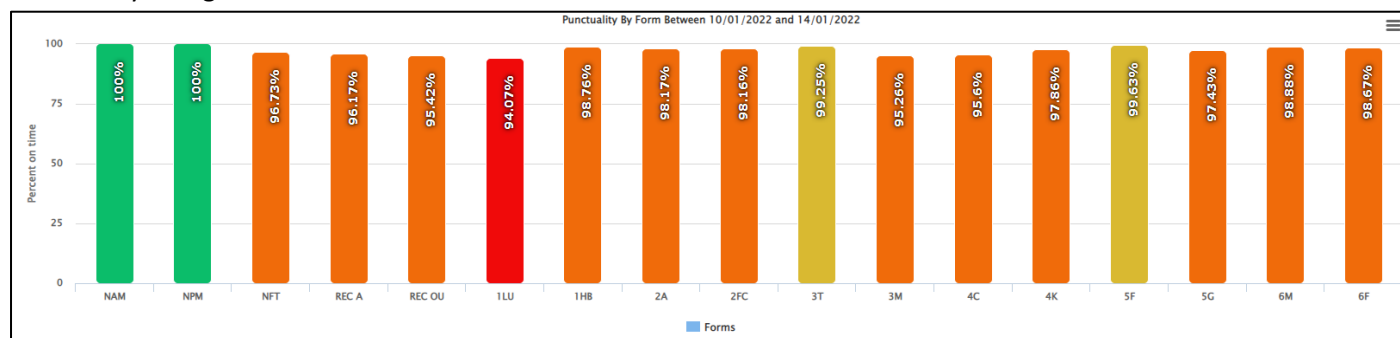
If you have a child who will be starting school in September 2022 (born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018) or know someone who does, I hope that your application has been submitted to Lewisham. **The deadline is tomorrow, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January.**

Applications for Reception Class places for September 2022 must be made on line. Please follow this link:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/education/schools/school-admission/applying-to-start-primary-school>

### Punctuality:

Punctuality was great this week! A Fantastic effort. Well done to those classes above 98%.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: 5F! Well done to the 5F on 99.63%! I really do hope that all classes can be above 97% next week.

### **Wednesday Word**

Please see the link to this wonderful resource to share with your child, to support them in understanding the Mass Readings for the coming weekend. <https://www.swcps.lewisham.sch.uk/thewednesdaywordwebsite/>

### **Parent App:**

**Please, please, please download it!** There are **234** app users now, which equates to over 310 children. So thank you and welcome to our new users! I still would really like to have all of our families using the app – 100 to go! If you have not downloaded the app yet, please do so. I have had really positive feedback from parents who have started using it. You are able to access all the information we hold on your children. Since using the app, so many contact details have been updated. Vital information that we need, if we needed to contact you in an emergency. If you need any help with downloading it, please do not hesitate to ask us.



### **Social Media:**

Just to remind you, follow us on:



St Winifred's Catholic Primary School



St\_winifreds\_lee



@stwinifredslee

Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter, it really is very much appreciated,

Claire Gillespie

