

21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all your support with this current wave of Covid-19 positive cases. Due to your proactive approach to testing the children, we have seen a dramatic decrease in numbers. We currently have half as many confirmed cases as this time last week.

Next week I look forward to welcoming the Nursery back to school and being able to remove bubbles for certain year groups.

An Inclusive Community:

As a Catholic school, we pride ourselves in being an inclusive, safe community for all our members. We believe we are all unique and made in the image of God; that our differences are to be celebrated and respected. Everyone who enters our school must feel welcomed, safe and feel that they belong here, regardless of race, sexuality, gender or religion.

As defined in the Equality Act 2010, It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of:

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| • age | • marriage and civil partnership | • religion or belief |
| • disability | • pregnancy and maternity | • sex |
| • gender reassignment | • race | • sexual orientation |

These are called protected characteristics.

In today's assembly, I reminded the children about how as a school, we are a family, and that no one should ever use offensive, racist, sexist and homophobic language. I explained to them about the severity and the life-long impact this can have. I also stressed the importance of reporting it, if they were to witness this taking place.

As part of the PSHE and RE curriculum the children are taught about this in lessons and the impact this trauma has on the victims of this abuse. Staff work hard to support the children when disagreements occur, so that the children are equipped to resolve issues. This way, when disagreements occur (which they will), the children do not resort to using harmful, abusive words.

Incidences of this kind will be taken incredibly seriously and will be reported to parents /carers and to the governors, as specified in Keeping Children Safe in Education (2021), our Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies.

I ask that you support the school in this by having these conversations too at home with your children. Please feel free to contact me if you are concerned about any issues. Thank you in advance.

February:

7th-11th: Children's Mental Health Week
8th & 10th: Parents' Evenings
14th – 18th: Half Term
21st: INSET Day
22nd: Children return to school

Parents' Evening:

This term teachers will be offering a 10-minute telephone / video catch-up to all parents/carers of pupils in their class. They will discuss the progress your child has made this term, how they have settled and their key targets for development. These calls will take place on the week of the 7th of February, with the bulk of the appointments being offered on the 8th and 10th October. Your child's teacher will be contacting you to arrange a mutually convenient time. It is incredibly important to attend this meeting

These meetings will take place remotely, via the phone or video. I have taken this decision, as you know, due to the number of cases we have had since Christmas and I want to keep everyone safe. I am disheartened that we are still in this position.

Teachers will be contacting you directly and inviting you to book a 10-minute slot on these two evenings:

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| Tuesday 8 th February | 4pm – 7pm |
| Thursday 10 th February | 4pm – 6pm |

If you are unable to make time on these two dates, I am sure that the teachers will find a mutually agreeable time to meet with you within this week.

May I also take the opportunity to remind you that these meetings are strictly **10 minutes** long. If you feel that after your meeting you would like to meet with the teacher for a longer meeting, to discuss certain issues at length, this can be arranged. The teachers will have pre-booked appointments and will not be able to spend more than your allocated time with you. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

British Science Week:

British Science Week will be held between 11-20 March this year. We are planning a celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths.



Do you have a job in any of these areas? We would love you to help us inspire the children, whether this is through demonstrating some mind-blowing experiments at an assembly or in classrooms, or perhaps you are involved in construction or engineering and can run some workshops in classrooms for children. In the past, we have had: a medical doctor talking to Year 6 children about gruesome diseases; an engineer running a bridge construction competition for children in classrooms; a scientist demonstrating how the human body conducts electricity, and an engineer presenting a sewage project to the children.

Can you help us have a science week to remember? Please do contact Ms Fitzgerald at tfitzgerald5.209@swcps.lewisham.sch.uk if you are able to help us develop a fun and engaging science week.

Friends of St Winifred's

The Friends and I had big plans for this term, however, they too are all on hold. Please see again 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. Thank you to our one kind parent, who has been in touch already!

Blackheath Wanderers

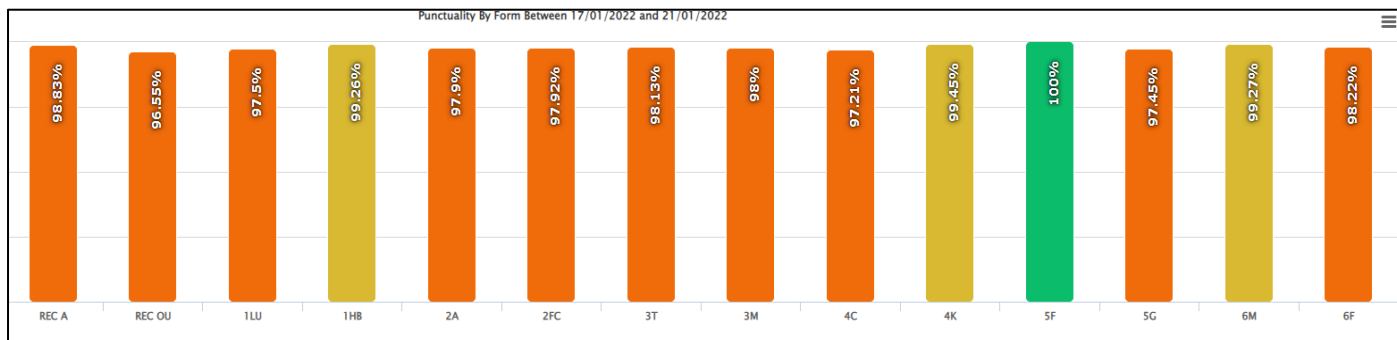
Girls are wanted for their football team. If you are interested please see the attached flyer.

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.

Punctuality:

I know that due to the burst water pipe, getting to school on time on Wednesday and Thursday was difficult. We did keep the registers open until 9am on both mornings, as so many families were affected on these days. Punctuality was great this week! A Fantastic effort.



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: 5F! Well done to the 5F on 100%! I know 5F are working hard to maintain their record. 100% the perfect week! Enjoy your additional time in the MUGA!!

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 **238** 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

