

28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you all once again for being so vigilant in regards to Covid-19. On a daily basis we have one or two new positive cases confirmed, but across the school our numbers are remaining low. We were delighted to welcome back the Nursery this week and there are currently no bubbles in the school. We will of course continue to monitor the situation and adapt our risk assessments as government guidance changes.

Lewisham, London Borough of Culture 2022



Today, we celebrated the launch of Lewisham, London Borough of culture.

<https://www.london.gov.uk/city-hall-blog/we-are-lewisham-london-borough-culture-2022-has-begun>

The children have also been told that they will be

learning to dance the Bop! IRIE! dance theatre has created a signature movement sequence for LBOC 2022. This is designed to be performed as a fun, collective shared experience across all age groups and abilities. As a family, why don't you all try learning the dance! <https://www.iredancetheatre.org/l-boc-bop>

Internet Safety

It has been brought to our attention that some children have been able to access inappropriate 'cartoons' and gaming videos online outside school. One particular video that has been mentioned, is regarding 'Huggy Wuggy and Kissy Missy' from the video game Among Us! This game, although marketed for children, does include violence and horror themes. Although these characters look child-friendly, they are not. I know that most parents monitor the children's use of the internet, but things change so quickly that sometimes the children are all watching something without us knowing what it is. I attach a link to a page which supports parents in putting parental controls on all devices with internet capabilities – including the TV and gaming consoles.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Drop off and Pick up times:

We have had a few complaints regarding issues occurring when the children arrive to and leave school.

- Some vehicles are speeding in the roads surrounding the school, please be mindful of our children, many walk, scoot or cycle. The speed limit is 20mph on many of these roads to help us protect the children.
- Some children were spotted by residents playing on and climbing over gates of houses in Newstead road, when accompanied by adults.
- Cars are being parked inappropriately, please be mindful of parking restrictions and our neighbours around the school.
- Cars stopping on the double yellow lines and zig zags to drop off / collect children.

I know that this does not apply to everyone, but if it does, please be mindful at these times of the day.

February:

- 7th-11th: Children's Mental Health Week
- 9th: Mental Health Awareness talk for adults
- 11th: Dress to Express £1
- 8th & 10th: Parents' Evenings
- 14th – 18th: Half Term
- 21st: INSET Day
- 22nd: Children return to school



Children's Mental Health Week:

Children's Mental Health Week is taking place on **7-11 February 2022**. This year's theme is **Growing Together**.

We will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown, and how they can help others to grow.

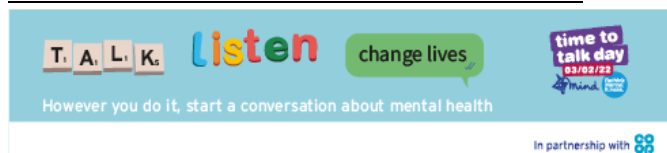
Dress to Express:

On Friday 11th February we will be encouraging the children to use clothing and colour to express themselves. We kindly ask that all the children who take part make a suggested donation of £1. The children's outfit can be as simple or elaborate as they like! This is an opportunity for self-expression and celebrating a diverse range of emotions. Expressing yourself is about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts, or ideas and is great for your well-being.



They may choose to dress in their favourite colour, or wear a colour which express how they feel or represents their personality. The day provides a great opportunity to be open about mental health and start conversations within our school community. The money raised from this day will be used to buy Circus Skill resources for the school, which can have huge benefits to the children's mental health and wellbeing, in addition to being great fun!

A free Mental Health Awareness talk for adults:



Although the focus during the week in school, will be on the children, we wanted to provide something for our adults too. <https://www.mind.org.uk/get-involved/time-to-talk-day-2022/>

Why is it important to talk about mental health?

- One in 4 of us will experience a mental health problem in any given year.
- We want everyone to feel comfortable talking about mental health – whenever they like.
- Talking about mental health helps to create supportive communities where we can talk openly about mental health and feel empowered to seek help when we need it.
- Opening up the conversation about mental health problems is important – by talking about it, we can support ourselves and others.

With all of this in mind, you are all invited to an awareness talk:

"How are you?"



On : Wednesday 9th February via Zoom (link to follow next week)

At : 10:00 ; 16:30 or 19:30

By : Ali Ryan : Parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Registered Nurse

Co-Director of *Parish-wide Health and Wellbeing Support*

Community Interest Company

Contact Ali at : phaws4u@gmail.com or [via www.outingdepression.com](http://www.outingdepression.com)

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. 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 February. 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:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 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.

Traductora para los hispanohablantes:

Si necesitáis traductora para poder asistir a las conferencias con los profesores, por favor decidme a qué hora tenéis la cita. Mi madre es española y podré traducir para ustedes. Disculpas por no haberlo dicho antes.



Half Term Activities:

Please see the following flyers for:

Munchkin Holiday Camp

The Blackheath Conservatoire

Jason Pearce Football Academy

Catford Wanderers Cricket Club

Notification of Gas & Water improvement works:

Please see the attached letter regarding work that is planned to be carried out on Westhorne Avenue. Please take this into consideration when bring your child/children to school and when collecting.

Breakfast & after school activities

These are now on ParentPay. Thank you to everyone who has already paid.

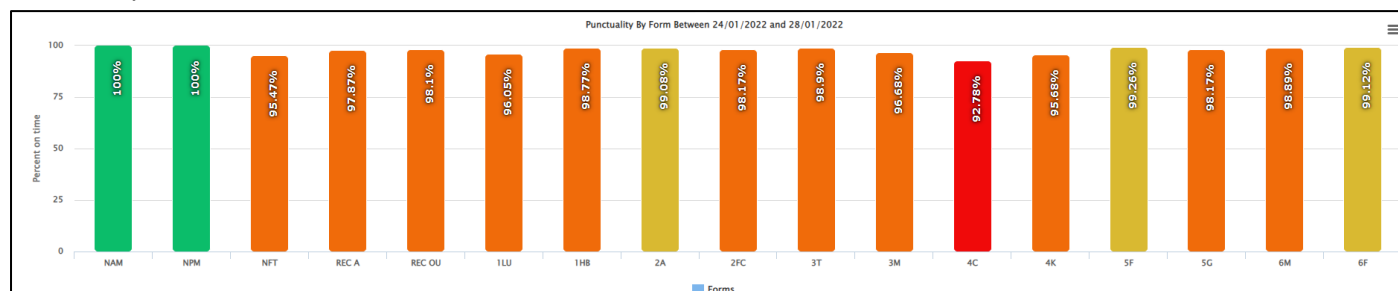
Brass Instruments

Our brass instruments have had better days. We are looking to replace them. If any of you have any unwanted brass instruments at home and would like to donate them to the school, we would welcome them with open arms.



Punctuality:

Punctuality was varied this week... Well done to the classes who achieved 98%+!



This graph shows the punctuality for this week. This week's winner is: 5F! Well done to the 5F on 99.2%! 5F really do want to keep their extra time in the MUGA! 2A you came in a close second.

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

Reminder: 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!

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.

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 **241** 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