

# Tickford Times

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## COVID-19 Update

We've had another busy week here at Tickford Park with our highest levels of staff and pupil absence so far throughout the pandemic. Whilst our numbers in Early Years and Year 1 have begun to increase again, children and staff in Key Stage 2 have now been impacted. Over the last few days, however, we've been pleased to welcome staff and pupils back to school and we look forward to continuing to do so in the coming week. We're hopeful that we are through the worst of it now!

Once again, we've been very grateful for the support that we've received from parents throughout the week. We know it has been a tricky time for you too, as many of you have had to stay home to look after children, or have been unwell yourselves. Thank you for supporting us by carrying out lateral flow tests and keeping us informed when children have tested positive.

I'd also like to thank our team here at Tickford Park – many of them have had to work extra hours, pick up additional duties or cover responsibilities normally held by absent colleagues. I'm thankful to have such a hard-working team and delighted that because of this, we've so far been able to avoid closing any parts of our school due to staff shortages.

To all pupils, staff and family members who are unwell, we send you our best wishes – we hope that you are feeling better soon and look forward to seeing you back at school in the coming days.

## Excellence in Dance



In this week's newsletter, we are celebrating with Layla-Jayne who has been excelling in her dance classes and festivals. Last weekend she won 3 gold medals and 3 silver medals in her solo and duet dances in Ballet, Modern, Song and Dance and other genres.

Earlier in the month she placed 4th in her age category in the ISTD National Dance awards. Layla-Jayne danced a traditional Bulgarian folk dance (see above) in this competition, which celebrated world dance.

Congratulations on your achievements, Layla – keep up the good work!



*Two happy winners from the 5-Day Lego challenge Raffle!*

## Wear it Blue

On **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February**, we invite children to **wear blue to school** in support of the local charity *Shay's Smiles*. In exchange, we ask for a small donation, which will be passed on the charity. Donations can be made on School Gateway.

If children wish to, they can also purchase a *Shay's Smiles* wristband to support the charity, which is a member charity of Brain Tumour Research. These are available for £3 and can be purchased on School Gateway.

Children can wear their own choice of blue clothes on this day, or blue accessories with their own clothes – but no high-heels and no dangly earrings, please.

## Children's Mental Health

On **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, we look forward to celebrating Children's Mental Health Day at Tickford Park. We invite children to wear their own clothes to school on this day, to give the day a more relaxed feel and help the children to feel a little more comfortable.

## Spring Term Dates

Please don't forget that school will be closed on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. This is our school-set date in lieu of the additional bank holiday to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Please also keep in mind the dates for our February half-term and Easter holidays as these differ to many of the secondary schools in the local area. Our holiday dates are:

February Half-term	
School closes on:	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Pupils return on:	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
Easter Holidays	
School closes on:	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April
Pupils return on:	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April

## Holiday Club

We are pleased that *Sporty Scholars* will once again be running their holiday club at Tickford Park in the February half-term break (see poster below).

For further details or to book a place for your child, please visit [the Sporty Scholars website](http://the Sporty Scholars website).

## Lego Day



I hope that the children have enjoyed their Lego day in school today and that those who took part in the 5-day challenge had fun making their models at home.

Thank you to Friends of Tickford Park for preparing these activities and providing us with boxes of Lego for every classroom, which the children will be able to use during indoor play times in the future.