

# Tickford Times

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4<sup>th</sup> February 2022

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## Staffing Update

We are pleased to report that both our staff and pupil numbers are once again approaching normality with many members of our team returning this week and fewer testing positive. We are relieved to see that numbers of cases in the school have halved since last Friday.

We are currently missing Mrs Valentine and Mrs Baillie from Year 2 but look forward to seeing them back with us next week, all being well. Mrs Battle has remained unwell this week but is getting back to health and also hopes to return to work next week. Two members of our lunchtime team tested positive earlier this week and we wish them a speedy recovery. We are grateful to all members of the team who have covered lunchtime shifts in their absence.

You will be aware that Ms Chapman tested positive for COVID-19 a couple of weeks ago and we are sorry to say that, whilst she is recovering, she remains unwell. We are not expecting her back this half-term. I am sure that you will all join me in sending her our best wishes for a rapid and full recovery. In Ms Chapman's absence, I will be temporarily taking on the role of DSL, supported as needed by the Safeguarding team of Mr Matthews, Mr Cowper and Miss Morley.

We thank you for your patience and understanding at this difficult time. We remain grateful for the support of the parents and the wider school community. The leadership team and I look forward to seeing you out on the gates again in the coming week!

## Children's Mental Health

Next Friday – 11<sup>th</sup> February – we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Day. Throughout the day, classes will be exploring a range of themes around Children's Mental Health. We know that these can be sensitive issues but we'll explore them in supportive and pastoral ways.

We're inviting children to wear their own clothes to school on this day, to help us foster a relaxed atmosphere to support the learning. We believe that a focus on pupil wellbeing and mental health is more important now than it has ever been and hope that your children will benefit from this day.

## Class Dojo

I've been asked by children a few times over the past couple of weeks about Dojo certificates and I've always tried to answer honestly: due to our high numbers of staff absences, we've got a bit behind with certificates and awards. I'm sorry that this had been the case but happy that children are setting themselves Dojo targets to work towards and excited about their rewards.

Next week, we will hold assemblies to catch up on these and I look forward to giving out lots of certificates and star badges to the children for their hard work in earning Dojo Points over the past month. In addition to a number of white glitter stars for 250 Dojo Points, we will also be able to award our first stars for 500 Dojo Points.

## Wear it Blue



Tickford Park changed from green to blue today as we 'wore it blue' in support of Shay's Smiles. Thanks to the wonderful support of our school community, we've raised £485 for this local charity.

## Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday – 8<sup>th</sup> February – we will be holding our Safer Internet Day. During the day, we will be supporting children in their understanding of the importance of staying safe in their use of technology and particularly when they are online.

This awareness is becoming increasingly important as children are now exposed to technology from a much younger age and often engage with games and social media that can include elements of online interaction.

## Chinese New Year

This week our children in Foundation Stage learnt about and celebrated Chinese New Year.

We would like to thank *Magic Wok* for providing spring rolls, noodles and rice to help bring this experience to life!



## Go Green Group!

I was delighted this week to hear about the *Green Group* – an eco-team set up by some of our Year 6 pupils who decided to take action to improve the environment. Armed with litter pickers, they've been using their lunch break to clean up litter around the school grounds and have so far collected 30 buckets of litter. Thank you, Green Group, for your initiative and dedication.



What's more, two members of the group – Jessie and Lily – have taken this work outside of the school gates, giving up their sunny Sunday to clear up litter in Sundon. What a great way to represent the school out and about in the local community!

The Green Group have got a lot more ideas about how they can improve the school grounds and I look forward to working with them to develop these.



## Holiday Club

Don't forget that *Sporty Scholars* will once again be running their exciting holiday club at Tickford Park in the February half-term break.

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