**St Peter’s Primary School**

**Plumbridge**

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**Newsletter for November 2020**

We are delighted to be back for Term Two and hopefully we will have a happy safe term.

**Covid-19 Guidelines**

As a school community we have adhered and adapted really well to all the new social practices around Covid-19 and we need to continue to do this in the next few months. We all have a part to play; Remember; hands, face, space!

Guidance for parents will be pinned on to the school website page for quick referral.

If your child displays any of the three Covid symptoms **(elevated temperature, a new continuous cough and/or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste)** please keep your child off school and book a Covid test. Keep the school updated throughout.

**Memo:** If your child has is self-isolating please inform the school. If your child tests positive, please call the school and contact your child’s teacher via Seesaw. If your child tests positive over the weekend, please contact the class teacher via Seesaw **and** email the school info account.

**Latest guidance regarding collecting your child from school:**

All parents and carers are now being urged to follow these simple steps.

1. Wear a face mask
2. Do not congregate outside the school gate
3. Limit contact with others and leave the grounds as soon as your child arrives in your care
4. Maintain social distance at all times

**\***Stay on your own when walking up and down the school path. Keep your child close by your side.

**Only cars that have a pre- arranged agreement with the school should drive into the school yard.**

On Fridays when the older children are outside for P.E. **please do not stay to spectate**.

If you are not collecting your child, please ensure that these steps are forwarded to the nominated carer.

**P.E. AND Covid Restrictions**

Latest guidance from DE is that P.E. can only be provided outdoors in a maximum group of 15. On P.E. days it will be essential that children dress appropriately for the outdoor weather. Naturally there will be days when P.E. will not be able to take place due to inclement weather but hopefully we will obtain further guidance from DE. P4 -7 classes will be encouraged to stay outside therefore ensure on a Friday afternoon that children change out of their P.E. Kit when they return home.

**P.E. for P1 to P3**

On Friday 6th we will begin P.E. Sessions for P1-P3. Once again, we ask that you forward £5.00 for these classes which will run from 6th November until 11th December (six sessions, one owed from when school was unexpectedly closed)

**Friends of St Peter’s**

Thank you to Friends of St Peter’s for organising the pumpkin carving competition. Every entry was fabulous, so creative and individual. Well done to everyone involved.

Friends of St Peter’s have decided to source printing a school tea towel to help raise funds for the school. Every child will write their name and draw a small picture of themselves in school and this will be printed on the tea towel. This would be a lovely item to keep and would create beautiful memories in later years. We plan to have this order sent out before Christmas so it would indeed make a unique Christmas gift for aunts, grandparents etc. Friends of St Peter’s will send out a printed pre-order in the next few days with all related information. Another fantastic idea.

**Month of the Holy Souls**

During November the Christian Community takes time to remember all those who have died, may they Rest in Peace. Each classroom will have an area for each child to display the name of someone they know who has died.

**Weather Warnings**

It’s that time of the year again when there can be severe weather warnings. Therefore, we are asking you on those mornings when there has been weather warnings to ensure that there is a member of staff present in the building before dropping off your child as staff can be delayed travelling to school.

On snowy/frosty mornings please check the school website as the school may be closed. If you do not have access to the internet, please ensure you link up with other parents who will call you on these mornings.

**Anti-Bullying Week**

Anti-Bullying week begins on 16th November. During this week all children will participate in a number of presentations and workshops based on the theme ‘United Against Bullying’. On Tuesday 17th we encourage all children to wear odd socks to school. This sends out an important message to people that everyone should be allowed to be themselves, free from bullying and helps us to celebrate Anti Bullying week in a fun and positive way.

**Christmas Tickets**

As we are approaching Christmas we will send out our Christmas tickets next week as this is a much-needed income for our school funds. We would appreciate if every family could sell a book at £10 and delighted if more books were requested for sale.

**Housing Executive Competition**

The Housing Executive have organised a competition for pupils to design their ideal home. There will be one winner in the school who will received an Amazon fire. In order to publicise the competition, the Housing Executive asks permission from the child and their parents of the winner to get a photograph taken for the local papers. All entries to be returned by the 11th November.

**Shoebox Appeal**

We are delighted to once again run our annual shoebox appeal. This is a great opportunity and a very worthwhile exercise for all children to learn to give to others. These shoeboxes which will contain only basic items will bring joy to many people in eastern European countries. We will send out the related leaflets at the end of the week with information about what can be put into the boxes. In the meantime, you may check our website for items which you can include in the box. Boxes will be collected on Tuesday November 17th.

**Homework**

As a school we would like to remind parents that the homework is to be corrected by each parent. Answers are provided in the upper school classes and if anyone needs support please contact your child’s class teacher.

**Spring Bulbs for Schools Investigation**

The Primary 6 and 7 class have started their Edina Trust Bulb Project 2020.  The children have planted daffodils and a variety of mystery bulbs which they will monitor over the coming months.  Pupils will record rainfall and temperatures as part of a research project funded by the National Museum Wales.  Results and findings will be collated with participating schools in Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland.  This is a great project for children to become young scientists and learn about the importance of fair testing alongside enjoying the beauty of nature.