



WILLOW BANK INFANT SCHOOL

Newsletter

Diary Dates ★

January 2022

31st Gem Day

February

8th E-Safety Day
Further
information to
follow

17th Year 2 Trip to
Windsor Castle

18th End of Half
Term

21st –
25th Half Term
Holiday

28th Children return
to school for
Spring Term 2

From the Headteacher

28th January 2022



It's hard to believe that we're almost at the end of our first month of the new year, time is flying by! Even more unbelievable is that we only have three weeks until the half term that marks the middle of the school year!

Our **Gem Day is coming up on 31st January**- all children are invited to come to school in clothes that represent one (or more!) of our gems. These could be white, green, blue, red or purple, or a combination. Please remember that your child needs to have warm clothing (as our classroom windows are open) and sensible footwear so they are able to enjoy active playtimes. Gem Day will focus on what our Gems represent, and how to use our Gem Powers and is linked to our Growth Mindset approach.

We are also looking forward to celebrating **Children's Mental Health Week**, which runs from **Monday 7th February until Sunday 13th February**. We are especially excited because this year's theme is 'Growing Together' which is also a part of our school motto 'Growing Together, Learning Together'. The charity running this special week is Place2Be, and they are focussing on helping children to grow emotionally and find ways to help each other grow. So, for Children's Mental Health Week 2022, we will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. We will share more information about the activities we will be doing in due course.

Please see below for another Covid update.

Have a lovely weekend!

Michelle Masters

Important COVID-19 update

Class Bulletin Links

[Rabbits](#)

[Foxes](#)

[Badgers](#)

[Owls](#)

[Squirrels](#)

[Hedgehogs](#)

COVID Update

Last week our newsletter explained that Covid cases in Wokingham were still very high, and requested that parents continued to wear face masks during drop off and pick up time. Thank you to everyone who has continued to wear a mask. Earlier this week, I wrote to families and explained that we had reached contingency thresholds in school, which meant that we needed to take additional measures to try prevent further Covid infections. Unfortunately, we are still continuing to see high levels of infection across the school, and more worryingly, high levels of infection in the staff teams. Today we had 9 members of staff out of school with Covid related absence, which I am sure you will appreciate makes keeping to the daily routine very difficult. We have now reached a point where having only one or two more staff members fall ill will lead to us having to make the difficult decision to close a year group for a short time, as we will not be able to meet safety thresholds. Unfortunately, owing to the nature of Covid infections, we will not know this until the morning someone tests positive. I wish to assure you that we will, in all cases, do our very best to keep the year groups open and running, and only if we are unable to ensure the safety of the children, as a last resort will close the impacted year group until we have sufficient staff available to open. In the case of a closure, we will notify the affected year group by text immediately, and then follow up with a parentmail explaining the circumstances. We will aim to do this with as much notice as possible, as we realise that this will impact on many parents and their work. Thank you to everyone who has continued to test their families regularly and who are working hard to keep our community safe- we really appreciate every effort.



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Congratulations!



WELL DONE!