



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

21st January 2022



The children (and staff) have had a wonderful week this week! The **STEM week activities have been brilliant**- and it was lovely to see the children joining in with all the different activities on offer. Thank you to all the staff for organising and running these activities, and special thanks to Mrs Ogbeide, our Science coordinator who spearheaded the week's organisation. I'm sure you will all be aware of the **changes to Covid restrictions** that are coming into place from Thursday next week. **Please see the information box** below for our school response.

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.

Have a lovely weekend!

Michelle Masters

Important COVID-19 update

Class Bulletin Links

[Rabbits](#)

[Foxes](#)

[Badgers](#)

[Owls](#)

[Squirrels](#)

[Hedgehogs](#)

COVID Update

As you will have seen in the media, the Government will moving away from 'Plan B' on Thursday next week (27th January). This means that masks will no longer be mandatory in public places, amongst other changes.

This week, Wokingham primary schools set a new highest number of cases record, with 707 new cases on Monday 17th January. Our previous record was set the Monday before (10th January) at 200 cases. Across the primary schools in Wokingham, cases this week rose from 1000 to 2000. These case levels are not reported in the media as the media data relies on registered positive cases from LFTs and PCRs. A large number of people who have been testing positive on LFTs have not been registering their results with the NHS website, although they have told their children's schools. Wokingham believe the school data to be a more accurate measure of infection levels at this time because of this.

In the past week, our school has had to combine class lunchtimes because the high level of staff absence means we have been unable to meet safety thresholds. The number of positive Covid cases in our school community remains very high, and we are very close to having to declare contingency measures. This would mean possibly moving to online classes, cancelling after school care, clubs, educational visits and moving back into bubbles.

For these reasons, and because it is apparent that Covid infection rates within our community are still very high, we will be asking staff and visitors to the school to continue wearing masks inside. Additionally, we will be asking our families to continue wearing masks on the playground when collecting and dropping off their children. We understand that the risk of transmission outside is very small, but we are trying to do absolutely everything we can to keep our school open and our children educated face-to-face. Wokingham deliver weekly briefings to schools, and are monitoring the situation. We will aim to keep these additional safety measures in place until such a time as it becomes apparent that infection levels in our community are dropping. We really appreciate your support in helping to keep our school open and our community safe.



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Happy Birthday!



Congratulations!



WELL DONE!