



Head Teacher: Mrs SA Welsh
Augusta Close, Darlington, DL1 3HT, Telephone: 01325 240499, Email: admin@whinfield.net

Newsletter

Friday 10th. September

Welcome back everyone!

The children have been exceptional this week! They have come back into school, full of smiles and have settled into their new classroom routines extremely well. They all look very smart, and we thank you for your support.

Everyone has been introduced to the new GEMS reward system and have started collecting GEMS for their team. The first assembly whole school will be on Friday 17th September when the GEMS will be counted, and the first winning Team informed. Initially we will do the whole school assemblies on Teams each Friday and individual certificates will also be presented during that assembly. Look out for the Marvellous Me's!!

Active Mile:

You will have received a letter this week regarding the Active Mile. The children have taken part in this throughout the week and have done brilliantly! Children can bring trainers on the day they do the Active Mile rather than do it in their school shoes.

Gem Rewards:

Watch out for Gem badges on Marvellous Me. They look like this....



When your child receives a GEM in school the teacher will send you a GEM badge on Marvellous Me. Red is kindness, yellow is problem solving, green is resilience and blue is concentration. Weekly GEM totals will be added up every Friday and the totals will be put on the weekly newsletters. The first totals will be added up on Friday 17th and appear in the weekly newsletter.

If you do not have Marvellous Me please contact the office.

Reading Books:

Reading books will go home shortly. We are finalising arrangements for reading books currently so we will keep you up to date about the procedures. Weekly reading certificates will continue each week. We will be awarding reading certificates to children who are reading well at home and at school. The online reading books are also available. Please log in using <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>. Any problems please speak with your child's class teacher.





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Jewellery:

Just a reminder that we do not allow the wearing of jewellery in school including watches.

COVID 19:

We would like to encourage everyone to continue to follow our procedures:

- Maintain social distancing within the school grounds.
- Adults to wear face coverings within the school grounds.
- Contact the school via telephone where possible to avoid face-to-face discussions.
- Contact the school immediately if your child has any of the recognised symptoms and arrange for a test.
- Adhere to the allocated pick up and drop off times for your child's year group.

Thank you for your continued support in helping keep our community as safe as we possibly can.

COVID Symptoms - When to stay off school:

Symptoms/potential cases of COVID-19:

Any child or staff member who is feeling unwell **MUST NOT** come into school.

If your child (or member of the household) displays any of the recognised symptoms of Covid - 19 they should not be sent to school, and you should ring to arrange a PCR test as soon as possible.

- New persistent cough
- High temperature
- Loss of taste or smell

If a child exhibits these symptoms in school, they will be immediately isolated, and you will be contacted to come and collect your child. We will expect that a test will be arranged to confirm the symptoms.

If there is a positive case of COVID in your household, please let us know as your child will be a close contact.

The guidance says:

What is meant by a contact

A contact is a person who has been close to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. You can be a contact any time from 2 days before the person who tested positive developed their symptoms (or, if they did not have any symptoms, from 2 days before the date their positive test was taken), and up to 10 days after, as this is when they can pass





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the infection on to others. A risk assessment may be undertaken to determine this, but a contact can be:

- *anyone who lives in the same household as another person who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19*
- *anyone who has had any of the following types of contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19:*
 - *face-to-face contact including being coughed on or having a face-to-face conversation within one metre*
 - *been within one metre for one minute or longer without face-to-face contact*
 - *been within 2 metres of someone for more than 15 minutes (either as a one-off contact, or added up together over one day)*

A person may also be a close contact if they have travelled in the same vehicle or plane as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

If your child is a contact, we strongly recommend you take them for a PCR test.

The guidance says:

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- *they are fully vaccinated*
- *they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months*
- *they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial*
- *they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons*

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a PCR test. We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

If the PCR is negative, they can continue to come to school as stated above, however, we again, strongly recommend that they take Lateral Flow Test each day for the 10-day period after they had contact to rule out if they are asymptomatic (not showing any symptoms).



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