



SPRING ENDS – JUST AS IT BEGINS...

Whilst we know it happens every year, it always feels odd to be ending the spring term just as the blossom comes! This one *has* been a bit of a rollercoaster; we've seen over 70 days of staff absence and 435 days of pupil absence across a term of just 63 days! The changes to covid guidance (below) *should* mean that the same doesn't happen next term. The DfE are clear that attendance of children in school is of the utmost importance and these changes will support that.

Despite the challenges, and occasional storms, the sun *has* shone, and we've managed to keep going with smiles and good humour and are grateful for all the support from home.

Have a great break. We look forward to seeing everyone back, in good health, on Wednesday 20th April!

WINNER, WINNER(s)...



Congratulations Yr 1 & 2 who have placed second on the leaderboards in this year's Literacy Planet Word Mania competition.

Year 2 responded well to a last minute call to arms from Mr G on the final day!

PROGRESS EVENINGS

These will be a mix of online & in-person appointments on Tue 26th and Thur 28th April between 3:30 and 7pm. Booking will be via School Cloud, as previously:

<https://firends.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Bookings open Saturday @ 9am

ICE CREAM FRIDAYS

These have been a great success for the PTFE and will now run on the last Friday of each month/term.

JOTTER APP - NEWS & CALENDAR

The **School Jotter** app includes a rolling **news feed** and **school calendar** which can also be found on the **website**.

If you haven't already installed it, search **School Jotter** in your app store and select **Fir Ends**

LIVING WITH COVID – WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

FROM 1st APRIL GUIDANCE CHANGES AS FOLLOWS:

ANYONE with **respiratory symptoms** or a **fever** should **stay at home** until they **feel better** and/or **no longer have a fever**.

ADULTS who **test positive** with a **covid test** should **stay at home** for around **FIVE days**, until they **feel better** and have **no fever**.

CHILDREN who **test positive** with a **covid test** should **stay at home** for around **THREE days**, until they **feel better** and have **no fever**.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO ABOUT TESTS?

Free testing is no longer available. Routine testing, even with symptoms is no longer advised – if you or a child feel unwell, advice is to just **stay at home** until you **do feel well** (see above).

Testing **is** still advised if you are visiting vulnerable relatives and have respiratory symptoms, a fever or have had recent contact with a confirmed case.

LFT test kits can now be purchased from Boots, Tesco and other retailers. You can expect to pay around £2-£3 for one test.

KS2 SWIMMING

Swimming is a statutory part of the school curriculum, and next term we're getting our swimming programme back on track. Unfortunately, so are all the other schools, and we have ended up with the last session of the day - 2:15 - 3.00pm!

Sessions start in the first week back at school, as follows:

WEDNESDAYS – Year 5&6
(starting the first day back!)

FRIDAYS – Year 3&4

Buses will leave school at 1.30pm to get children to the pools. We are hoping to have them back at school by 3:20pm, but there may be delays if traffic is bad which *may* then impact school bus departures.

Children should wear their costumes under their school uniform and bring a kit bag with a towel, underwear - and goggles if they need them.



SUMMER OUTDOOR ED TIMETABLE

To accommodate the swimming sessions, SATS and various other things going on next term, we will have to adjust the outdoor ed timetable to suit.

Please refer to the calendar in the Jotter App (or on the website) to check if your child has a Wednesday outdoor ed session scheduled.

To make their swimming day and SATS prep easier to manage, Year 5&6 will **not** have outdoor ed sessions in Summer Term A.

SCHOOL UNIFORM AND PE KIT REMINDER

Our uniform is **black** and **bottle green** with *sensible (black) footwear* that pupils can run in without having to change shoes. If your child(ren) suggest any different when getting dressed, please refer to the uniform specification [on the website](#) to clarify!

There is a 'summer spec' that includes **gingham dresses** and **black shorts** which can be worn until October.

Pre-worn uniform is stocked by the PTFE and can be ordered online or via the PTFE webpage (or just catch Jane McGuigan at the gates)

PE Kit should be worn on Fridays and is **plain black shorts/joggers** with a **winter green/teal** t-shirt and a **plain black fleece or hoody**. *The shirt can be swapped for the normal school polo shirt.* Again, if children suggest anything else is acceptable for Friday wear, refer to the specification to clarify.

OUTDOOR ED kit is a moveable feast – they need layers appropriate to the weather but school polo shirts and jumpers can form part of this ensemble!



PLAYTRAIL UPGRADE

Earlier this year, children raised over £2000 to support the resurfacing of the playtrail.

Thanks to them, a hefty grant from **Hallburn Wind Farm** and the sterling work of **Dan and Arthur Wigham** to lay drains during the February storms (!) we had a new rubber surface installed by the well named **Billy Bounce** this week.

It's now dry *and* bouncy so we have finally been able to let children back on the equipment, much to their excitement.

Definitely one of the highlights of the term!

WRAP, SPLAT, HAT

With the summer sun on the way, please ensure that children have (and can apply) suncream, a hat and a layer with sleeves to cover up with if needed.

Water bottles are also an essential item in summer!



WRAP UP
Wrap up in a T-shirt and UV-protected sunglasses.



SPLAT ON
Put on sun cream to all parts of your body and face before going out, and remember to reapply at least every two hours.



HAT
Always wear a wide-brimmed hat to keep your face and neck in the shade.