

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a challenging week with our highest ever covid figures of 75 children or staff across the school isolating due to covid this week. 9 classes plus all of Reception are currently operating in a “bubble” and we have reverted to all virtual assemblies and no indoor clubs or indoor mixing between children in “bubbled” classes.

Please help us to keep our staff safe and our school open by testing your child every day if they are in a “bubbled” class and / or are a close contact of someone with covid.

At current staffing levels we are just about managing to keep every class in face-to-face learning, thanks to the remarkable efforts of our team and teaching assistants. We hope this will continue until half term but please help us in our endeavour by ensuring you keep your child at home if they have any covid symptoms and by testing regularly.

Please also help us to quickly count the covid cases each day by reporting your child's initial absence before 8:45am. You can leave a message on the answerphone or email the school office with your child's name, class and reason for absence. It is taking the office until lunchtime some days to telephone all those who have not contacted the school to give a reason for absence, this delays us implementing covid contingency measures as quickly as we would like.

I will review the covid rates again on Monday and update the risk assessment then.  
Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

#### Cross Country

Well done to our fantastic Y5 and Y6 runners who ran in the Cross Country finals at Abington Park last Saturday. Max Y5 came 14th out of all Northants Under 11 boys; Lilly Y5 came 44th and Alice Y5 came 63rd for Under 11 girls. The Y6 children ran in the under 13 age group on a much longer course well done to Harry who came 58th and to Leah.

#### Boccia Tournament

Five Key Stage Two children represented our school in a Boccia tournament this week at Wollaston Secondary school. The team did brilliantly and the adults who took them were very proud of their behaviour and achievements. They came fourth out of nineteen teams! Well done Bailey, Lexi-Leigh, Franklin, Jenson and Zeke.

#### Vacancies

We currently have three vacancies in our school for additional staffing. We are recruiting for a new PE / sports HLTA and a new Behaviour Support Assistant. Sadly, Mrs Michelle Biggs is leaving EBPS after 19 years to take up a part-time role elsewhere and to spend more time with her new grandson. We shall miss her greatly when she leaves us at half term. We therefore also need a replacement HLTA full-time for Y5/6. If you know anyone who may be interested in these roles, please direct them to our website [here](#).

#### Parents' Evenings

Our spring term parents' evenings will both be virtual due to the current covid numbers in school. Please see the separate letter and instructions on how to book using “School Cloud.”  
One day soon I hope to write a newsletter that doesn't mention covid! Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards,

Miss Lally

**Attachments**

-Whole school: parents' evening letter and booking instructions

**Letters this week:**

- Y5 permission / allergies for DT Chinese-food making
- Reception: How to access Microsoft teams
- Reception: Postponing the dinosaur fossil experience day
- Choir & recorder club cancellations
- Y5&6: Creative writing club invitation
- Y3&4: French club invitation
- Y3, Y4 & Y6 Residential trip payment reminders
- Writing homework