

7th January 2022



CIPS Weekly Bulletin

Welcome Back!

Happy New Year! Let's hope that we can get back to normality in 2022! Despite the doom and gloom and increasing case numbers, I hope that everyone managed to wrestle the goodness from the festive holidays and found time to relax.



Covid Update



The Omicron Variant has caused havoc with staffing since our return but because of pre-planning, we have managed to absorb the increased level of sickness without it impacting on class teaching.

However, as you will have no doubt have heard on the news, staff shortages across all schools is increasing and it is becoming next to impossible to book substitute teachers. If this continues, which I suspect it might, we may have to switch some classes to remote learning if sickness levels become unmanageable. As stated before Christmas, if this happens, we will provide notice by text, try to accommodate families where both parents work and do this as an absolute last resort and for the shortest time possible.

More than ever, it is important that parents follow the guidance in relation to Covid and possible symptoms. The main symptoms include fever, a new and continuous cough, anosmia (loss of smell) and ageusia (loss of taste).

However, examples of other symptoms include, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, myalgia (muscle ache), sore throat, headache, nasal congestion (stuffy nose), runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-background-information/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-epidemiology-virology-and-clinical-features#:~:text=The%20main%20symptoms%20include%20fever,%2C%20nausea%20and%20vomiting.>)

The guidance around testing has changed since the last bulletin. If an individual returns a positive lateral flow, then they should assume that they have Covid and isolate as per guidance. <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolating-and-close-contacts>

To protect others within our community and also avoid staff absences, which could result in some classes being switched to remote learning, I would urge all parents who believe that their child(ren) have symptoms to keep them off and even if they return a negative lateral flow, **book them a PCR**. There have been many examples of lateral flows returning a negative result and a follow-up PCR being positive. **For all Covid related absences, the School Office should be informed at the earliest possible opportunity.**

Online Applications



The online application portal for both Nursery and Primary One admissions for September 2022 opens on **Monday 10th January 2022 at 12 noon.** Parents of prospective Nursery or Primary One pupils must complete an online application before the deadline **12 noon on Friday 28th January 2022.** We advise all parents to complete this online application process as soon as possible.

The Education Authority (EA) have set up a Parent helpline (TEL: 028 9598 5595 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) to assist with this process. In addition, Cliftonville Integrated is happy to assist any parent that requires additional support in completing the online process. If you require further assistance, then please contact the school office on 028 9035 1638.

Please note: before contacting the school office, ensure that you have already contacted the EA Helpline.

Promoting Our School

If you know of a parent who is considering sending their child(ren) to our school, then please encourage them to visit the school website and Facebook page where they will find useful information, including promotional videos, virtual tours and our admissions criteria. Alternatively, they can contact the school directly on 028 9035 1638.



You can also help by hitting like and sharing our posts to help promote our school. We are also running competitions so watch out for these to be in with a chance to win a gift card. As well as our promotional videos, virtual tours and competitions, we have also been running a PR campaign in local papers and you will see our school on billboards. Please help get the word out and promote our wonderful children and school.

Surveys



During this term you are going to send a number of surveys that will help with aspects of school development as well as day to day operations. It is important that parents take the time to complete the surveys and have their say in how we evolve so please look out for these surveys as they will appear on this bulletin and/or through our text messaging service.

Colder Weather

Please ensure that your child(ren) come to school with appropriate clothing and footwear for winter. Our weather is changeable and we know it will be cold and wet in winter so please ensure they wrap up in a warm coat for the journey to and from school and during outdoor play. We also recommend sensible, leather shoes for wetter weather.



Meals Menu – Week 2 from 10th January 2022

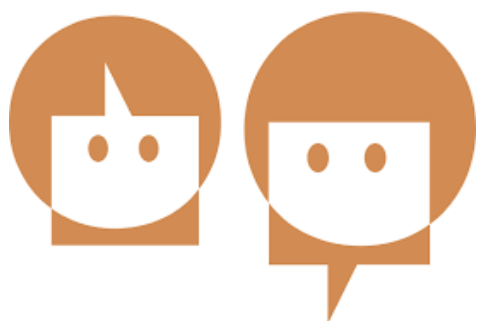
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Beef Burger in Bap Tossed Salad Baked Beans Mashed Potatoes	Italian Lasagne Crunchy Fresh Coleslaw Garden Peas Selection of Salads Homemade Garlic Bread	Roast Breast of Chicken Herb Stuffing, Gravy Cauliflower Cheese Fresh Diced Carrot & Parsnips Roast & Mash Potatoes	Fresh Breaded Cod Goujons With Lemon Slice & Tartar Sauce Salad Mushy Peas Mashed Potatoes	Breaded Chicken Bites Sweetcorn Selection of Salads Salsa Dip Chips Baked Potato
Homemade Rice Pudding & Peaches	Homemade Shortbread Watermelon	Rice Krispie Squares Custard	Apple Crumble Custard & Fruit	Jelly, Ice Cream & Fruit Salad

Contact Information Reminder

Please remember to inform us of a change of address or contact details, including new phone numbers. This will ensure that your child's details are kept up to date on our computerised system. We will not be held responsible if you do not receive text messages as a result of not providing us with updated mobile phone numbers.



Finally.....



We hope to start our parent reconnect programme next week. Initially, we have seconded Mrs McConkey to work as a Parent Liaison worker with a view to also running events and courses for parents as and when the conditions allow. This will include Families Connect, Parent Forum, PTFA and hopefully some other exciting initiatives. The education of your children is a partnership and Covid has robbed us of so many of our interactions and we want to rectify this as soon as we can.

Nichola will be out in the playground from next Friday and available to chat from 9:00am Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting on Monday 17th January.