

## WEEKLY NEWS

From the Headteacher: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see the children back in school after the October half term and having such a positive attitude towards their learning both in and outside of the classroom.

This half term we have so much to look forward to. Behind the scenes, the staff have planned a fun packed curriculum to ignite the children's curiosity and instil a love for learning.

Last term more than 50% of the children (107 out of 210) managed to achieve 100% attendance. This means that they were in school every day from September until the October half term. Thank you to all the parents, friends and family members who made this possible.

This half term the staff are looking forward to extending the children's learning through an enriched curriculum. Children in KS2 will also have the opportunity to learn how to play the Steel drums. Across the school, the children will continue to learn about their history through engaging texts and creative opportunities.

This week, the children will explore ways they can make a positive contribution to the wider world outside of Paxton. On **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November** the nations favourite virtual PE teacher, Joe Wicks, will be attempting to work out for an incredible 24 hours for Children in Need 2020.



As a school, we have decided to support Joe in his challenge and we will be having our very own workout marathon across the day. Please send your child into school **wearing PE kit that day** and if you wish, make a donation to support Children in Need. We are looking forward to seeing all the spider man lunges and bunny hops!

Next Week, the children will explore the true meaning of friendships through anti-bullying week and on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November** they can come in **wearing odd socks**. It's a great way to kick start the week and celebrate what makes us all unique! More information will follow.

During Week 4 (**23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Nov**), Years 3 and 4 will be learning about International Fashion and traditional clothes worn around the world. We would like to invite all the staff and children of Paxton to be involved in this celebration of culture too!



Children (and adults) will have the opportunity to come to school in their traditional/cultural outfits (e.g. a Sari, African print, Kilt, etc) or an outfit incorporating their cultural heritage/flag colours if they do not have specific attire (e.g. green, yellow and blue outfit to represent Brazil). More news will follow next week.

### Upcoming events

- Telephone appointment **Parents Evening** will be held in **December** this year. Parents will be given time slots over a 2 day window. More information to follow.
- Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions there will be **no Christmas Performance this year in December**.
- **Christmas Holiday** - Monday 21st December - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January
- **Inset Day** - Monday 4th January 2021
- **Children return** – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Parent governor elections

As mentioned last week, we are creating a Paxton Academy Governing Board and therefore will be holding Parent Governor elections. If you would like to get involved, please contact the office and we will provide information on how to nominate yourself or a parent who you feel has the right skills set, along with the time to commit and the passion to make Paxton even better.

### **Keeping the Paxton Community safe**

To ensure we can act in accordance with the restrictions resulting from the second lockdown, we would just like to remind parents of the following over the next month:

#### **Drop off's in mornings**

To avoid overcrowding, we are asking parents of Years 3,4,5 and 6 not to enter the playground in the morning unless essential. Please make sure your child has everything they need in their school bag before they enter the school gates.

#### **Face coverings for parents and carers**

We kindly ask that all parents and carers (with the exception of those who are medically exempt) wear a face covering when they drop off and pick up their child from school.

#### **School visitors on Site**

The school policy of limiting visitors on site remains in place. Parents should not access the school site during the day, unless for a pre-approved reason or appointment. If you have an appointment with a member of staff we would ask that you wear a mask or visor.

#### **Speaking with staff**

Please make an appointment as there will not be an opportunity to speak to staff during drop offs and pick ups. This is to prevent crowding at the gate/on the playground and to make sure that all the children and our community remain safe. Appointments with members of staff can be made by emailing the member of staff or by contacting the office to arrange an appointment.

#### **Late pick ups**

It has come to my attention that a small number of children are being collected late at the end of the school day. The school day finishes at 3.15pm. When children are not picked up on time, the delay causes difficulty for everyone involved; the child who worries about where the parent is; the adult who is anxious about being late; and the staff member, who has to remain with the child.

We understand that on occasions that parents may run late. Wherever possible, we would please request that parents call the school by 2.45pm so that we can make plans accordingly.

Going forward, we will be recording all late pick-ups in our late book. For parents of children who are consistently picked up late, a meeting with a member of our Senior Leadership team will be arranged.

#### **Attendance**

Last week, after the huge success of the 1<sup>st</sup> half term, our attendance rate for the school dropped to an all time low of 88.0%. This is obviously not a good start to Autumn 2.

As the days get colder and the nights get darker, please can we ensure that we wrap up warm and send the children to school dressed appropriately.

If for any reason children are unable to attend school, please note parents have a legal responsibility to notify the school on the first day of a child's absence and need to inform us why they are unable to attend school.

If you do not report your child's absence it will be recorded as **UNAUTHORISED**, which could result in us having to inform the Education Welfare Officer

#### **Croydon libraries 'Select & Collect Service'**

With the count down to the festive period upon us and the next three weeks in lockdown, there is no better reason than to find yourself lost in the pages of a good book.

Due to the latest government guidance, Croydon Libraries have suspended browsing and pre-booked IT appointments. They will offer a Select and Collect service that lets you select and reserve books for collection. This can be done online, via email or phone (by leaving a message). You can find out more about Select and Collect at:

<https://www.croydon.gov.uk/leisure/libraries/library-select-and-collect-service>

**Incident in Croydon** : It is with regret that we have to inform you that unfortunately, last week, two young secondary girls were stabbed in the morning on their way to school. One on Moffat Road and the other on St Paul's Road.

The BBC have released the attached.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-54839501>

Our thoughts and wishes are with the families, their schools and our local community.

Remember to look after yourself Paxton and be kind to each other.