

12 March 2021

TO ALL FAMILIES

Dear Families,

We have had a busy week welcoming everyone back to our school community. We are so proud of how everyone has coped with adapting to the gradual changes in expectation we are making. Staff have been delivering a curriculum which pays close attention to the whole class and the whole child within it. This week we have focussed on a balanced mix of well-being, friendship re- connecting and class identity re-establishing, as well as being mindful of assessing where the children are with their learning.

As part of our Lower School curriculum, our chicks arrived in school this week and have been busy hatching. The children have delighted in holding them and watching them grow and change. They have been a reminder of new starts and looking forwards towards the future. For those who are interested, we have been making a time-lapse video that we will share on Google Classroom.



COVID-19 Self-testing kits for pupils and students

Families will receive testing kits to do with their child at home next Monday 15th March. Test packs will be given to pupils and students in named, sealed A4 envelopes and placed in their bags. You will need to email the surgery using the email address surgery@stdominicsschool.org.uk to confirm secure receipt. Advice for how to administer the test is provided in the accompanying booklet. You will also be required to register with the NHS as per the instructions in the booklet. As a school we are also required to keep a record of the results of everyone's tests and will be sending more information about how to do this in a separate communication.

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Tests should be taken twice weekly. Pupils and students in Years 7-14 who returned to school on Monday 8th March will be tested in school for the last time on Monday 15th March and will therefore only need to take a test at home once next week.

GL Assessments and End of Term Reports

This week pupils in Lower School have been working on GL assessments, which are the standardised tests also administered in the autumn term. Upper School pupils in Years 9 and 10 will be doing their tests next week. This is so that families will be able to see how much progress their child has made since the autumn term. Families will receive end of term reports on Wednesday 31st March.

Occupational Therapy Provision

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on our Occupational Therapy Provision. We have struggled to recruit to this role for some time and unfortunately we lost Laura Hawkins this half term as she moved on to another job. I am delighted to tell you that we have now secured one day a week of therapy from an independent practitioner. Dana Turner is an Occupational Therapist who is very familiar with the needs of the pupils at St Dominic's School, having worked here for 8 years before moving on to independent practice. Dana has a Post Graduate Diploma in Sensory Integration and has Advanced Practitioner Status. She is HCPC (Health Care Professionals Council) registered, a member of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and the Sensory Integration Network. There are some pupils in lower school who will have their Sensory Integration therapy delivered by our own Occupational Therapist, Heidi Williams, who has completed her Sensory Integration Level 1 and will be directly supervised by Dana Turner. Other pupils with specific individual SI therapy outlined on their EHCP will have direct therapy with Dana. She will be with us on Mondays, starting May 17th. If your child is going to be receiving therapy with Dana, you will be contacted directly following the Easter break.

World Book Day

We are aware that some pupils and students who were not attending school last Thursday would have missed out on dressing up as part of World Book Day. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out on the fun, so invite pupils and students who did not have the opportunity, to dress up as their favourite character next Friday 19th March. Don't worry, they will not look out of place, as staff and pupils will also be invited to wear something red and come with crazy hair in support of Comic Relief!

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Perry
Vice Principal