

Iron Acton CEVC Primary School
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Headteacher: Mike Riches



7th January 2022

Welcome back

Welcome back to Term 3. I'd like to wish every member of our school community a very Happy New Year. We were pleased to be able to continue with many of our usual Christmas events and celebrations before the break. We thank you all for supporting the school with these and hope you enjoyed the build up to Christmas, which is always a very special time of year for us in school.

The new term has started well and the children have settled back into their classes. So far, Covid rates across the school are low, but we have had a bout of chicken pox – please look out for this in your children and if you notice any signs, please let the school office know.

Schools in South Gloucestershire have received a new set of advice to limit the impact of Covid on children's education. As a result, we have made the following changes:

- All staff and visitors are required to wear a face covering in communal areas throughout the school
- Visits to the school are limited; we thank parents for their support by staying outside of the building
- Large gatherings have been cancelled; this includes whole school assemblies and collective worship
- Mixing of classes is limited and we have returned to a bubble system with 3 separate groups which do not mix inside (Bubble 1: Barn Owls & Falcons; Bubble 2: Buzzards; Bubble 3: Golden Eagles)
- Meetings in school are held online and social distancing is in place for adults in school

We are hopeful that the above measures will keep everyone as safe as possible but also enable every child to continue to receive as much face to face education as possible without too much disruption.

The school does have a contingency plan in place in the event that any class is unable to open. This may be due to infection rates or a shortage of staff. It is possible that a class may need to close unavoidably at very short notice. We apologise in advance if this is the case.

To continue to support the school, we ask that you:

- Arrange a PCR test if your child has any of the 3 main symptoms (persistent cough, temperature, loss or change to taste or smell) and keep them out of school until a negative result is received
- Follow any guidance from track and trace if your child is a close contact (this now involves children aged 5 upwards taking lateral flow tests for 7 days instead of self-isolating)
- Carry out lateral flow tests as a family twice each week
- Remain outside of the school building

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

Mike Riches



Staffing update

Several new members of staff have joined our team this term. These are:

- Miss Chloe Patten who will be teaching Falcons;
- Miss Georgia Fareham who is carrying out the role of lunch break supervisor and reading assistant;
- Mrs Sue Harrison who is currently a lunch break supervisor, but has now taken on the role of teaching assistant and reading assistant in Buzzards
- Please note: Mrs Lyall will teach Falcons every Wednesday morning; Mrs Wood will teach Barn Owls every Wednesday morning

Our updated staffing structure can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Vision and values

This term we will be exploring perseverance as our whole school value.

As well as this, we regularly talk to the children about our school motto: Courage to Care. This comes from our vision: Every member of the school family takes active care of themselves, each other, their learning, their community and the environment, even when this is hard. Our vision is based on the story of The Good Samaritan in the Bible.

Our Governors have recently been developing an overarching Federation vision, which is designed to be relevant to the communities at both of our schools – Iron Acton and Hawkesbury. Our Federation is called the Pinnacle Schools Federation and so, the Governors would like to propose that the overarching vision be:

'Striving for the Pinnacle in our schools and in our communities.'

This does not replace each school's individual visions and identities. We would welcome any thoughts or feedback on this, so please do email the school office or speak to a member of staff if you have any feedback.

Art day

Today the children are involved in a whole school art day. They are taking part in a range of creative activities to enhance their skills as artists. Please do ask them later on today what they have been doing. We hope to share some photos in our next newsletter.

INSET days

Our remaining INSET day for the current academic year are:

- Monday 28th February
- Friday 1st July

The 2022-2023 academic year will begin on **Thursday 1st September**. We do not currently plan to hold any INSET days on the first two days of term.



New play equipment

During the break, a new stage and seating area was installed on the school field. We plan for this to be used by children on a daily basis during break and lunchtimes, but also for it to be a place for us to hold our outdoor assemblies when they take place. We are grateful to The Friends of Iron Acton School for funding this for us.

Active travel

Over the weekend, we are clearing a space for our new scooter rack, which was recently delivered. This will give everyone more space to store their bikes and scooters should they be able to travel to school this way.

We do continue to encourage all to travel to school both at the beginning and end of the day using active means where possible. Our posters are still up to encourage the use of the 5 or 10 minute bubbles. On lamp posts around the village there are stickers to show you where the bubbles begin. This is a great way to promote physical activity and to prepare children for the day ahead as well as to make the area outside school safer.

Term 3 dates for the diary

Event	Date and time	Information
Family service	09.01.22 10am	All invited to St James the Less Church in Iron Acton
School visit to church	10.01.22	Our termly visit to the church for collective worship will take place
Bath Spa students in school	10.01.22 – 14.01.22	Two secondary students will spend the week at school as part of their studies
Cricket workshops for all classes	11.01.22	A cricket coach will work with each class through the day
Aerospace Museum visit – Buzzards and Golden Eagles	13.01.22	It is intended that this will go ahead as planned
Flu immunisations for children	14.01.22	
LGBT history month begins	01.02.22	
Children's mental health week begins	07.02.22	
Safer Internet day	08.02.22	
Outdoor learning day	18.02.22	
Final day of Term 3	18.02.22	
INSET day	28.02.22	
First day of Term 4	01.03.22	

Dates can also be found on our school website: <https://www.ironactonprimaryschool.co.uk/news/>



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Barn Owls <i>Reception</i>	Mrs Wood Miss Holmes Mrs Riches	Mrs Wood Miss Holmes Mrs Riches	Mrs Wood Miss Holmes Mrs Bush / Mrs Riches	Mrs Lyall Miss Holmes Mrs Bush	Mrs Lyall Miss Holmes Mrs Bush
Falcons <i>Year 1 & 2</i>	Miss Patten Mrs Jones Mrs Hampson	Miss Patten Mrs Jones Mrs Hampson	Mrs Lyall Mrs Jones Mrs Hampson	Miss Patten Mrs Jones Mrs Hampson	Miss Patten Mrs Simmons Mrs Hampson
Buzzards <i>Year 3 & 4</i>	Mr Brown Mrs Gaves Mrs Sparey	Mr Brown Mrs Harrison Mrs Sparey	Mr Brown Mrs Gaves Mrs Sparey	Mr Brown Mrs Gaves Mrs Sparey	Mr Brown Mrs Gaves Mrs Sparey
Golden Eagles <i>Year 5 & 6</i>	Mrs Bagnall Mrs Pilgrim	Mrs Bagnall Mrs Pilgrim	Mrs Bagnall Mrs Pilgrim	Mrs Detzler Mrs Pilgrim Mrs Jones	Mrs Detzler Mrs Pilgrim
Reading assistants	Mrs Shaw Miss Fareham	Mrs Shaw Miss Fareham	Mrs Shaw Mrs Harrison	Mrs Shaw Mrs Harrison	Miss Fareham

