



# School Newsletter

## 18th December 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a term this has been!

However, thankfully (and I'm touching wood as I write this) Sabden Primary has been relatively unaffected by what's going on over the hills.

We have not had to close any bubbles, only had one staff member with a positive test (no classroom based staff) and despite a few children having tests only three children have been reported as positive which they contracted whilst self isolating!

Of course, children coming back in September have been affected academically by the long stint away from school and although we were very concerned at the start of the term are feeling a little better now. There is still some way to go to get all our children back to where they need to be but with timely intervention and support to fill in gaps we are quietly confident that the effect of lockdown will only be temporary.

The most amazing aspect of us all coming back this term has been our amazing attendance rates. Week after week we have managed to reach 97% and over attendance rates. Well done Sabdeners.

On a personal note I would like to thank the following...

Our children for returning to school resilient and cheerful.

Our parents for trusting us to look after their children in the midst of a pandemic and for giving us time to get them back on track for learning and achievement.

Our community for staying safe and keeping to the rules.

Our school staff for not missing a day, for being respectful of Covid safety both in school and in your personal lives, for being flexible in the ever changing world that is education at the moment and for continuing to give our pupils the best of experiences.

I sincerely hope that you all are able to have a loving and restful break over the Christmas period. To those of you who work caring for others over the holiday – thank you. And to those of you who won't be seeing family this year I wish you peace, fond memories and the hope of a much brighter future in months to come.

**Merry Christmas All,**

**Elizabeth Maskell**



**THERE IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES, PLEASE READ.**

## **COVID 19 Cases Over Christmas Holidays**

Mrs Maskell is the school's Designated Covid Duty Officer and as such will be 'working' over Christmas to ensure that Covid related matters are dealt with.

If your child receives a **positive** Covid test anytime between Saturday 19 December and Thursday 24 December please email Mrs Maskell via on – [head@sabden.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@sabden.lancs.sch.uk)

Please state:

Child's name

When symptoms first appeared

Date of Test

**DO NOT EMAIL IF A NEGATIVE test has been received.**

Mrs Maskell will check emails at 10am and 6pm daily from Saturday 19 to Thursday 24 December.

Mrs Maskell will then inform parents via email if their child has had close contact with the child receiving the positive test. If notified the affected children will need to isolate for 10 days. A form will also be submitted to Lancashire County Council by Mrs Maskell.

If your child receives a positive test on and after Friday 25 December up until Monday 4 January 2021 you can email the headteacher or leave a message on the school's answerphone. Positive results on these dates will not require other children to self isolate unless they have been in contact over the holiday.

Emails will not be checked daily during this period.

Please do not email or try to contact the Headteacher with anything other than a positive Covid result.

## **Next Term:**

### **PE days**

PE days have now changed to Mondays and Fridays. Please make sure that children wear their PE uniform on both days.

It appears to have been a great success with children coming into school wearing their kits – no time needed for changing which has led to longer PE sessions and NO lost property.

### **Swimming**

Year 3,4 and 5 pupils will not be swimming next term as previously thought. We are trying to secure some sessions in the Summer term.

### **Classes**

All is as. No changes.

### **Nursery Intake**

We are now taking bookings for nursery places starting after Easter 21. If you need a place for either after Easter or for September 21 you are advised to get your name down quickly as we are now oversubscribed.

### **After School Club**

Thankfully After School Club will be returning to it's normal times with a 5.45pm finish. Miss Lofthouse is our new ASC leader until February half term. Please make sure your booking forms have already been submitted to ensure a place – some days are already full.

### **Enrichment Clubs**

Due to the stop, start nature of clubs this term we will not be organising any after school enrichment clubs for the next half term. Hopefully we can get back to normal late Spring.

### **School Dinners**

If you wish your child to change their arrangements for dinners (e.g wanting to change to packed lunches or to hot school dinners) school should have been informed by now. We will take it that your child's choice of dinner on the first day back is their choice for the full half term.

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

If you think you might be entitled to free school meals please apply at <https://lancashire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Free school meals and pupil premium> as it means school gets more money to help your child.

### **Class Dojo**

Class Dojo is now only to be used for children who are self isolating. Staff will upload work to the site as and when it is required and only for individual children. Due to this change the messaging service should no longer be used for communicating with staff members so please do not send messages as they will not be read or replied to. Please revert back to more traditional forms of communicating when you need to speak with someone.

### **Friend Requests on Facebook**

Staff are not allowed to 'befriend' parents/ carers on social media sites as per the school's Social Networking Policy and as advised by Lancashire County Council. Please do not ask to 'friend' staff as it will be viewed as inappropriate. Facebook is not the medium through which to contact staff: this also includes past and certainly present pupils.

Whilst I accept that some staff members are from the village and have friends who are also parents I have asked them to delete those who are only acquaintances. Staff have also been instructed to ensure their facebook account is private and only shared with close friendship groups. At no time should any school matters be shared. Please do not take offence to this directive as none is intended.

### **School Website**

You may have noticed that our school website page has changed and is not currently live. After many, many months we will finally have a brand new website for Sabden Primary. Hopefully our launch date will be early January – please await the fanfare.

### **Holidays**

Next term we start back again on Monday 4 January 2021 and close at 3.30pm on Friday 12 February. The half term holiday is from Monday 15 – Friday 19 February 2021.

### **Governor Vacancies**

We have vacancies for 2 new parent Governors which will be advertised at the start of the new school term in January. If you feel that you have the skills and time to support the school we would love to hear from you. More information will be sent out in January.

## **Office Opening Times**

Every week we receive comments from parents who have not been able to speak in person with someone in the office before 8.30am or after 4.00pm or that they could not get through on the telephone line.

We are a small school with limited funding but are still very lucky to have 2 office members of staff.

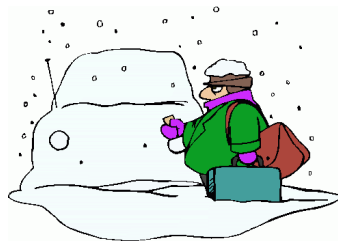
The office is 'manned' from 8.30am every morning until 4.00pm every night. We have 1 telephone line into school which does get busy especially in the mornings. If you ring school after 4.00pm it will most likely not get answered and will go through to the answer machine until the next morning. I do not expect teaching staff to answer phone calls after 4.00pm. We will have an 'emergency phone' organised when we return in January which as the name suggests can be used in case of an emergency between 4.00pm and 5.45pm. Again I must stress that this will be for emergencies only.

## **Replying to emails/ messages**

Emails should not be sent to any staff member over weekends or holidays. According to our school policy, staff aim to reply to emails within 48 working/ school hours and an immediate response should not be expected. This includes emails sent on the last day of term just before a holiday which will be answered within the above stated 48 working/ school hours.

## **Just in case of inclement weather...**

### **UNAVOIDABLE SCHOOL CLOSURES**



In the event of an unplanned school closure due to bad weather parents will be notified through the following media:

- **Teachers2parent texting service**
- **School Facebook Page**
- **School Website**
- **Sabden Community News Facebook**

**Lancashire Unavoidable School Closures page** - (search engine – Lancashire unavoidable school closures)

If in doubt as to whether school is open or not due to bad weather parents and carers should always check first before making any journeys. Please do not telephone school as it is highly likely that no one will be in school to answer.

If parents could spread the word if any closures happen we would be most grateful.