

Weekly Communication update 08/10/21

Dear families,

Welcome to this week's Communication update. It will now include an update about what year groups are doing each week.

<p>General Update</p>	<p>Hello families. I hope this update finds you well.</p> <p>For those of you who drop off/collect your children from school you will know that Ecclesbourne Road is incredibly difficult to navigate due to parked cars on both sides of the road. For the past year I have been in contact with a variety of people at Croydon trying to sort out this issue but to no avail. There are many occasions where the school busses are unable to gain access to the school site due to cars parked carelessly outside the school which mean the children must get off/on the bus outside school. This worries me from a safety perspective. If you would like to email me with your concerns I would really appreciate it. I am hoping that perhaps a collective response from the school, families and transport will help to finally resolve this issue.</p> <p>The Outdoor Drinks Hub which is called the Tea Turtle Cafe and is situated in the front playground had its grand opening this morning. On Tuesday the 12th of October we have another cafe grand opening - this is for our Soci-able Cafe and shop which is our newly built cafe area situated in our Post 16 department and is being run by our Post 16 students. The grand opening will be at 10.45am and there will be proper coffee, a selection of teas and delicious cakes on offer. We would love you to join us. Students in Year 11 and Post 16 will be operating the cafe most mornings and afternoons offering tea and coffee free of charge. The aim is to develop pupils' independence skills and prepare them for the world of work. Please come along, have a drink and say hello.</p> <p>As part of our Black History Month celebrations we have invited the poet Adisa the Verbaliser into school on Oct 22nd to do a performance and some workshops with all of Year 7 and 8 pupils. There will also be some storytelling and dance workshops for Key Stage 3 pupils on Oct 14th.</p> <p>The catering company which we use for school dinners are having supply issues due to a number of factors including the impact of the petrol crisis, a lack of lorry drivers, goods coming from France and Covid. Therefore, we cannot guarantee that what's on the menu will be the dinner that is offered. I anticipate there to be issues until at least half term.</p> <p>The office staff have asked me to remind you to please keep your child's dinner account in credit. Many thanks.</p> <p>Our Harvest Festival takes place on October 15th. If you would like to donate any tinned item, packet items, tea, coffee and cereals please send in by the 15th. All donations are going to the Salvation Army.</p> <p><i>Pupils have been working incredibly hard this week:</i></p> <p>Year 7 - In Year 7 Life Skills they have been learning about 'the pit of learning' which is something which helps pupils when they encounter challenges in their lives and gives them the techniques to manage situations.</p> <p>Year 8 - In History pupils have been looking at WW2. In Maths, Year 8 have been solving word problems.</p> <p>Year 9 - In Food Technology pupils have cooked vegetable curry served with rice. In Drama Year 9 are learning about different forms of comedy with this week's focus being slapstick.</p> <p>Year 10 - In Food Technology the focus is on breakfast dishes. In Maths Year 10 are learning how to budget.</p> <p>Year 11 - In Skills for Life they have been preparing for the Harvest Festival. In Humanities they have been completing their coursework on developing team skills. 11EE planned the grand opening of The Tea Turtle Cafe.</p> <p>Post 16 - Post 16 continues to focus on developing their independence skills. They also had a visit this week from their link Governor Paul Funnell.. Wishing you all a lovely weekend.</p>
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Lateral Flow Testing and Covid update	Please continue to test your children at home twice weekly using the kits we sent home on Wednesday. You should test your children on Wednesday and Sunday evenings.
Covid vaccinations for 12-15 year olds	The vaccination team is coming in on Weds Oct 13th to vaccinate pupils whose families have given consent. We wrote to all eligible families, however, If your child is in this age group but you have not received the information from us then please email or call the school office.
Dental Screening	The dental team were in yesterday doing pupil checkups and they return next Thursday the 14th for anyone they have missed. If you have yet to sign the form and want your child to have the check then please sign and return it by Monday. Many thanks.
Winter clothing	As the weather has turned, please ensure that you send your child to school with a winter coat and jumper. We have turned the heating on at school but due to Covid safety, all of the windows remain open. Therefore, a jumper or cardigan is essential. Many thanks.
PE Kit	Thanks for your support with sending pupils to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE. Just a gentle reminder that the PE kit is a plain white t-shirt or polo top; a black cardigan or jumper; black trainers and black tracksuit bottoms or shorts (Summer only for shorts please). Lots of pupils are wearing a variety of tops and bottoms which are various colours and not black/white.
Pastoral Parent/Carer evening	This will take place on Monday the 18th of October from 3.30pm by appointment only. You will be sent a time slot via email from your child's form tutor over the next 10 days. There will also be an opportunity to see some of your child's work. In addition, we have invited representatives from the local colleges to talk to families about what their offer is. The college reps will be based in the lower hall so you will be able to see them either before or after your appointment.
Parent Zone online safety	Parent Zone Local offers a range of free live events that they would love you to come to. You can find out more about what they have to offer by joining one of their introductory events from 12-16 October. There will be many more different events to register for from mid-October – exploring a range of topics. These will include: online safety , misinformation , screen time , gaming , and even a virtual family quiz event . Join us to learn more about the digital world – all from one of our expert hosts. The link to the website is: https://www.pzlocal.org.uk/events
Reporting absence	I have been made aware that some of you have tried to report an absence but have been unable to do so. The telephone company is looking into this. Thanks for your patience.
Natasha's Law	Natasha's Law - which aims to protect food allergy sufferers - came into effect on October 1st. Please keep us updated in regards to your child's allergies. Many thanks.
Squid Game TV series	Pupils have been talking a lot about this series. If your child is watching it or is planning to, it is rated 15 and has huge amounts of violent content. Caution advised.