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Good afternoon,

I hope that you and your family have all been able to enjoy the half term holiday period. The children clearly enjoyed their breaks and have returned to school full of enthusiasm!

**Storm Eunice** - I hope that you all survived the storm with homes largely intact! Here at school, we were fortunate in that our buildings survived undamaged. The strong winds certainly impacted on the trees surrounding our site and our caretaker and premises manager have certainly been kept busy clearing fallen branches from paths (particularly along our perimeter with Exwick Lane) over the last week!

I would like to apologise for the disruption caused with the closure of the school on the last day of the half term. It was a very unique situation, with Exeter only receiving an amber warning for the forecast winds – not a situation we would usually close for, as this action is very much a last resort. However, having seen the extreme winds, travel in such weather was most definitely not advisable and we feel that closing was a sensible action.

**Covid 19** – As well as the strong winds last week, we have also had a considerable change of direction with legislation for Covid 19!

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, the following changes were introduced:

- There is no longer a legal requirement for people with COVID-19 to isolate BUT public health guidance STILL advises people to stay home for 10 days (or until have 2 negative LFDs taken 24 hours apart on consecutive days from day 5 onwards)
- Routine contact tracing (provided by NHS Test and Trace) has now ended and close contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily LFD tests. People with COVID-19 will be encouraged to inform their close contacts, household and overnight contacts advised to take additional precautions for 10 days

The following slides have been taken from a Webinar during the half term holiday by the South West Public Health team, which I found really helpful to explain current advice:

## Plan for Living with COVID-19: Key changes

People with main symptoms of COVID-19 **STILL** advised to stay at home, avoid contact with others and PCR test.



Fever



Cough



Loss of smell/taste

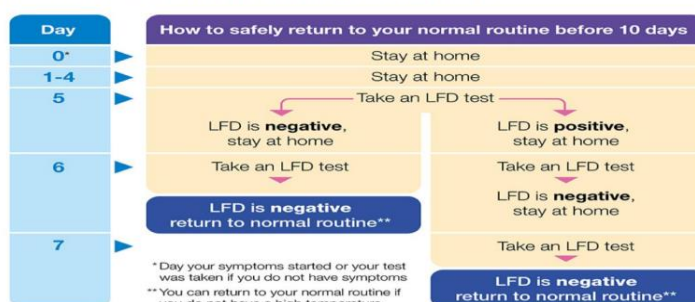
*Note:* other symptoms may be present, however, **PCR testing and isolation** continue to be advised **based on these three symptoms**.

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COVID-19 in Educational Settings

If you, or a member of your household are symptomatic or test positive for Covid 19, the following slide may also be useful, as it explains the guidance for isolating which, although no longer statutory, is advisable to prevent onward transmission:

How to safely return to your normal routine before 10 days



Source: COVID-19: people with COVID-19 and their contacts - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

10 COVID-19 Educational Settings

Here at school, we wish to urge our families to follow the Government's guidance to help to prevent a Covid 19 outbreak, which would impact on our school community. We have been incredibly fortunate to have had significantly fewer cases here at school than many areas, but that does not mean that we should be complacent. Across Devon, during the final week of the half term, 4,578 cases of Covid 19 were confirmed, which was significantly above the National average. Protecting our families from Covid, in the same way that we protect each other from catching sickness bugs and flu by remaining at home when affected will make a huge difference!

### Upcoming Events:

**Year 2 Field Trip to the River** – Our Year 2 pupils are completing Geography fieldwork tomorrow along the flood defence path beside the River Exe. The trip will support the children's understanding of both human and physical geographical features. Currently, the weather forecast is dry but overcast until early evening – and we are keeping our fingers crossed that it stays this way!

**World Book Day** – World Book day celebrations take place nationally on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. To mark this event we would like to invite everyone to dress as a book character! Please remember that dressing up as your favourite book character does not have to involve having to spend money! Many characters in children's books wear normal clothes. If you have access to paper, or indeed old cereal boxes, making a book cover, which can then be attached to your child's clothes, is a simple idea, which looks really effective.

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, **Anne Parsons** (author of 'Jump, Archie, Jump!' and 'Archie, Wait!') and **Hannah Foley** (author of 'The Spell Binding Secret of Avery Buckle') will visit classes in Years 1-6, helping our children to recognise the importance of reading for pleasure. If you would like to purchase a copy of either authors' books, please go onto the School Gateway Payments section where you will find the 'Archie Wait!' at a

discounted rate of £5.50 (usual price £7.99) and 'The Spellbinding Secret of Avery Buckle' at a discounted rate of £6.50. Both authors are kindly donating 50 pence from each sale to our school.

**Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings** –Parent Meetings for pupils in Year 2,3,4,5 and 6 will be held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March between 3:30 - 6:30pm in the main building. Parent Meetings for pupils in our Nursery, Reception and Year 1 classes will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March between 3:30 -6:30pm in the Early Years building. We will write to you this week inviting you to indicate a preferred date and time slot for these meetings and will do our best to arrange a convenient meeting time. However, please do not hesitate to come and speak to your child's teacher at any time, if you have any questions. Please remember that some clubs are cancelled as a result of these meetings – please check the dates listed on the club letter for further information.

**Year 4 Trip to Escot WildWood** – Our Year 4 pupils are getting very excited about visiting Escot next Tuesday (the 8<sup>th</sup> of March) to explore life in an Anglo-Saxon settlement. They will explore life in the 'Greenwood Centre for Living History', finding out what the Saxons ate, how they lived, the clothes they wore and the perils of Anglo Saxon life.

**Comic Relief** – On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March, it is Comic Relief. If you would like to celebrate this event to help raise awareness for this charity, we will hold a non-uniform day. Children and staff will be able to wear whatever they would like to (as long as they are able to participate fully in all aspects of our school day – key to this is warmth and safe footwear!)

**Year 6 Residential** - Our Year 6 children are set to enjoy a week long residential to the North of the county, staying at Beam House. Located beside a river in a picturesque wooded valley not far from Westward Ho!, Beam House offers the convenience of the beach with a stunning rural location. This trip is taking place between Monday 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**Postponed Dates from the school closure as a result of Storm Eunice:**

**Year 6 SATs meeting** – The scheduled SATs meeting for some of our Year 6 parents which was due to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> of February at 10.15am will now take place on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 10.15am.

**Dress Up for Digits'** – The postponed NSPCC 'Numbers Day' encouraging children to 'Dress Up as a Digit' will now be celebrated at the beginning of the summer term, on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Children will be able to dress up as something number related, they can wear an item of clothing with a number on it or representing something mathematical (football shirt, cap, netball shirt or even a onesie!) Or they can get even more creative by dressing in a maths or numbers theme, for example, pinning some black spots on a t-shirt to be a number on a dice, finding birthday badges to pin to an outfit or making a cardboard number hat. Ultimately, we want to have a little fun and raise awareness of a very important charity that helps children.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions,

With warm regards,

Caroline Neal