Amble Links First School LINKS NEWS



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STARS OF THE WEEK Indie Sleightholm Noah Showler Eliza Sweeney Roan Shepherd Eva Sewell Harry Davison

Anna Sewell

PE KITS

This year we will be continuing to ask children to come to school in bottom half PE kit on their allocated PE days; this saves us a great deal of time and also means we have less in our cloakrooms. PE days are Thursday for Y1 & Y2 and Friday for Y3 & Y4. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT WEAR EARRINGS FOR PE so should be able to remove their own earrings, come to school without them on PE days or wear clear plastic retainers. Please make a note of your child's PE day.

SWIMMING SITUATION

We were extremely disappointed to hear from the Granary Leisure Centre at the end of last term that they would no longer be offering school swimming lessons in order to focus more on providing for site users. For over 10 years we had developed a strong working relationship with the Granary and used their services on a weekly basis, ensuring that the vast majority of pupils leave Amble Links being able to swim. Despite school appealing this decision and suggesting other possible models to provide lessons for our pupils in Amble, we have not been able to move forward and have therefore lost access to what has been a valuable provision for the community in recent years. Providing swimming lessons elsewhere is likely to involve significant additional costs and travel time which will take out of our already busy curriculum. We are currently looking into what other options we have to provide swimming lessons for our pupils but have nothing yet arranged. There is a strong likelihood that we will need to offer short intensive blocks of lessons rather than weekly sessions for our pupils and may also mean that our youngest children do not begin swimming lessons as early as they have in previous years.

LATEST COVID INFORMATION Self-isolation is not now a requirement for close contacts of positive Covid-19

cases for those fully vaccinated and children. This should ensure that children have a much more consistent year in school. Covid-19 has not gone away though - where positive cases are identified in school we will write to parents of children in relevant classes to inform them of the case, be vigilant for symptoms and advise getting a PCR test. We have already done this during this week. We continue to have a range of measures in place in school to ensure that classes are distanced from each other whilst inside school and will continue the use of handwashing and sanitiser on a regular basis. We will also be keeping classrooms well-ventilated so ask that as colder weather comes, children are sent to school in suitably warm clothes and additional layers under their school uniforms.

We have restarted assemblies with the children twice weekly and the children are now able to play together outside- both of which have been lovely to have back!

We have an 'outbreak plan' in place which involves working closely with Public Health to monitor and manage cases.

Please continue to support us by not sending children to school if they have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 and ensuring that they are tested if any symptoms are seen. In school, we will be very vigilant for symptoms and will not hesistate to send children home and advise testing if we are concerned. Thank you for your continued support.

PARENTS MUST ENSURE THAT NEW ONLINE EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS FORMS ARE COMPLETED FOR EVERY CHILD

2021 SCHOOL DIARY

NEW Tues 28th September	Individual and (siblings in school) photographs
NEW Weds 20th October	Bag2School collection
NEW Friday 22nd October	SCHOOL CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
NEW Monday 1st November	School Reopens for Autumn 2
NEW Mon 15th November— Weds 17th November	Year 4 Residential Visit to Robinwood

Computing Lessons—how parents can help

Children in KS1 & 2 have weekly computing lessons on a Thursday or Friday. All children have logins to access a huge range of tools and resources through School360. It would be really helpful if parents could support children to practise logging into their School360 accounts using the username and password that they have in their reading records. When children are able to log in independently, they are able to get on with their computing learning much more quickly. Please help us by getting them to practise!

We have a number of loan devices that we are able to lend out to pupils who do not have access to an appropriate device at home. Please contact school to discuss this further.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AND HEALTHY

Please don't forget that it is everyone's duty to keep children safe. If you are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a child please speak to Mr Heeley or Miss Lightley (our Designated Safeguarding Leads). We have a range of support in school as well as being able to signpost towards other external support. We also have Jane, our school nurse, in school on Mondays and Wednesdays who is available to support parents and pupils with a range of issues including anxiety, eating issues, bedwetting, sleeping issues etc.

BIKES AND SCOOTERS

From Monday, children in Y1 to Y4 will again be allowed to travel to school by bike or scooter and leave these in the bike shelter at the K52 door. Due to the one way system, parents collecting children from school must collect their child's bike and take it to the relevant school exit for their child. For the safety of others, CHILDREN MUST NOT RIDE BIKES OR SCOOTERS IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDs and persistent offenders will not be allowed to bring them again. We have talked with the children about the importance of wearing helmets and strongly recommend that children wear these whenever they cycle or scoot...ask them about the egg helmet!

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