

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

As the calendar rolls on to October, there is a real autumnal feel in the air. For October, our Value of the Month is Responsibility, which follows on well from our thoughts on Caring and Stewardship during September. In Collective Worship we will be thinking about how power and responsibility are linked and reflecting on where each of us has responsibility.

As adults, we of course have greater power than our children and therefore greater responsibility. However, even the smallest of children has responsibility for their behaviour and the decisions that they make. In school we often reflect with the children that each of us is responsible for the choices that we make. Although it is tempting, whatever age we are, to shift the responsibility onto others, each of us is accountable for our own decisions.

As you will be aware, we continue to manage a fairly significant number of Covid-19 cases involving both staff and children. After a spike at the start of last week we have now reverted to just a couple of cases a day. As has been the case, the vast majority of individuals testing positive are in Key Stage 2, with clusters in Years 4 and 5. Advice from Public Health and OCC remains consistent and supports the actions that we are taking at this time.

As a staff team we are enormously grateful for your readiness to get your symptomatic children tested using a PCR test and for your regular at home Lateral Flow testing. These tests are key to us reducing the spread of the virus across the school and to keeping the school open to all children.

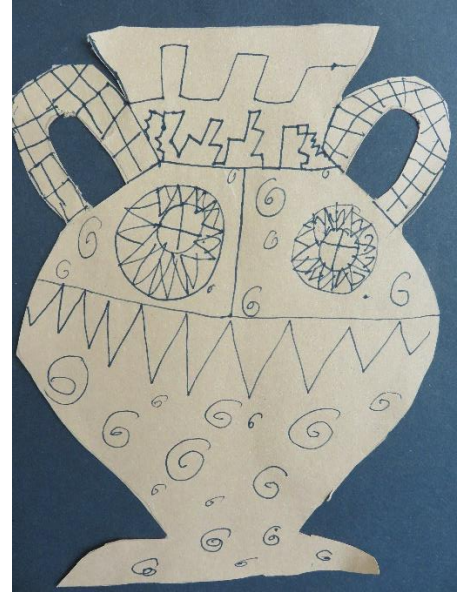
I am aware that for many people this season, when decisions about risk are down to individuals, rather than being dictated by central government, is a particularly challenging one. The desire to protect those we love is undiminished, but this has to be balanced against 'normality' in a new way. My message to my staff team is as consistent this week as it has been throughout the pandemic and remains the same to you and your children. The priority is always to protect mental health and wellbeing, do the things that you need to do to look after yourselves and those you love.

The remaining weeks of term are going to be busy ones. Please do keep an eye on our weekly 'What's On?' for important dates. In particular, I would like to draw attention to our Parents' Evenings, which will be taking place virtually during the last two weeks of term and our school photograph day, which is happening on 18th October during school time. We will be circulating more information about Parents' Evenings during next week, sign up will be via e-schools as usual.

On Friday, I was thrilled that we as a school could join together to show our support for Mrs Lynch's brother-in-law, who this weekend is running the London Marathon to raise money for Helen and Douglas House. Mrs Lynch's son Toby was cared for by the amazing team at Helen and Douglas House in the last few weeks of his short life. As a school we raised in excess of £400 for this fantastic cause; thank you for sending your children in with donations. If you would like to support Mike Lynch directly, you can give to his [Just Giving](#) page.



The children in Year 5, both those in school and those currently learning at home, have been very busy over the past few weeks learning about Ancient Greece. Next week they are devoting a whole day to dressing up as Greek citizens and learning more about the culture of the time. We are delighted that most children will have finished their isolation period and so will be back in school to join in the day in person. This week, the children have been designing vases and then drawing, cutting and sticking to bring their designs to life – we think their work is very impressive!



This week, we would also like to say a massive well done to the Year 6 children who completed their 'Bikeability' training.

The training takes two full days and helps ensure that children ride safely as they cycle on the roads, both as they move to secondary school and as adults.

More Year 6 children will be taking part in the training next week.



