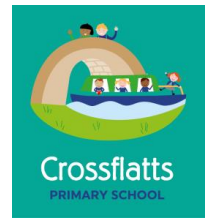


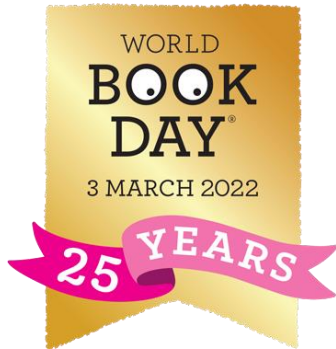
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Hi Everyone,

Welcome back after the half term, I hope you were all able to have an opportunity to rest and restore the batteries even if the weather was more than blustery and stormy! Let's hope the storms are now firmly behind us and bright spring skies are just around corner.



We have been celebrating World Book Day today with gusto in school! It was absolutely wonderful seeing all of our children and staff making such a huge effort and coming to school as their favourite book character. We haven't been able to celebrate this event for two years in school and having the Crossflatts family all together again in the hall after two years living separately, it brought some dust to my eye, it felt so magical!



The children will be coming home this afternoon with their World Book Day vouchers.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/> Click on the link to find out where you can spend them!

Just before the holidays, I know the children were all very busy collecting spare change to fill up their smartie tubes, to raise money towards being able to buy our very own book vending machine... well... drum role please... the smartie tubes have been flying into school and the PTA have been able to raise £1026.26!!!! This is an incredible amount of money to be collected in the Smarties tubes and with £500 from money raised in our Christmas fundraising activities we have reached our £1500 target to buy the book vending machine! We announced this great news to the children in assembly this morning and they are extremely excited about the delivery! Watch out for our coming initiative to stock the vending machine with lovely books for the children to read. A huge thank you for your support and generosity!

As we now move into a stage of living with Covid, the government have changed the guidance for us as a school. This is as follows:

#### Updates to Covid19:

From 24 February 2022, the legal requirement to self-isolate if you have coronavirus will end.

People who test positive for coronavirus are advised to stay at home for at least five full days and then continue to stay at home until they have two negative tests on consecutive days. From 1 April, the government will provide updated guidance on ongoing steps people with coronavirus should take to minimise contact with others.

Pupils who have coronavirus should not attend their education setting while they are infectious. They should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test from five days after their symptoms started, or the day their test was taken if they did not have symptoms, followed by another test on the next day. They can return to school if both these tests are negative, and they feel well enough to do so and do not have a temperature.

From 24 February 2022, fully-vaccinated close contacts and close contacts under 18 will not be asked to test daily for seven days. The requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate will also be removed from this date.

The UKHSA guidance says that people who live in the same household as someone with coronavirus, or those who have stayed overnight in the same household, are at high risk of becoming infected. For the 10 days following the close contact, individuals are advised to:

- Minimise contact with the person with coronavirus.
- Work from home if they can.
- Avoid contact with people who are at higher risk of becoming severely unwell if they get coronavirus.
- Limit close contact with those outside their household.
- Wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed or poorly ventilated spaces and when they are in close contact with others.
- Order a PCR test if they develop symptoms and stay home while they wait for the results.

Pupils should continue to attend school as normal even if they have been in close contact with someone with coronavirus.

Routine contact tracing will also end from this 24 February. People with coronavirus are advised to get in touch with their close contacts themselves so they can follow the guidance above.

From 21 February 2022, school staff and pupils in most settings will no longer be advised to test twice weekly. Staff and secondary-age pupils in specialist SEND settings, alternative provision and SEND units in mainstream

schools or equivalent in FE colleges are currently advised to continue twice weekly testing. From 1 April, the government will no longer provide free symptomatic and asymptomatic tests to the general public.

We have returned to school with very minimal positive numbers and as always we will balance operating school as normally as possible whilst still advising those who test positive to remain at home for 5 days. If you are unsure of what to do, please do just call school and we will advise you.



I am sure you are as horrified and deeply saddened as we all are by all that is currently happening in the Ukraine and for the children and families, who are facing horrific times and feeling utterly terrified. Our children here at Crossflatts have invariably begun to ask us questions as they are seeing the same things on the news as we are on the news. We answer their questions in an age appropriate honest way whilst being as reassuring as possible. Newsround has some very useful child friendly videos which explain the current situation in an age appropriate manner, which might be useful to watch and talk about together at home. The children and staff are very keen to stand together with the Ukraine

and to show our support and to raise money to send to the Red Cross, who have already distributed over 30,000 food and hygiene parcels and provided food, warm clothes, and other aid to around 8,000 people sheltering in metro stations. **Therefore next Thursday- 10<sup>th</sup> of March, we are inviting everyone to come into school wearing the colours of the Ukrainian flag (Blue and Yellow) and to bring a donation with them which we can send on the Red Cross appeal.**

This week in school, we have been getting caught being kind and trying every day to do little acts of kindness for each other. In the world we are living in, I think showing a little extra kindness to each other and counting our blessings for all we have and sometimes take for granted should be something we could do more of.

Best wishes

Mrs Bennett

Headteacher

