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Dear Parents and Carers,

The arrival of the winter snow certainly caused some problems at the start of the school day on Friday. The children loved it but not all the adults felt the same way!

We have been really impressed with the way in which the children have returned to school this term, really motivated and ready for all the work in their classrooms.

**Covid Update**

Our current situation is that we have seven cases amongst the children here, some are PCR confirmed and some are LFTs. There are three cases in Year 5, one in Year 3, one in Year 2, one in Year 1 and one in Reception.

We have one positive case in the staff team (one of our lunchtime team).

Please continue to test children twice a week, and every day in Year 5 while we have this number of cases.

**Admissions to Reception**

A reminder that the closing date for admission to primary schools for September is 15th January 2022. This includes siblings of current children who also have to apply through Dorset Council admissions.

**Call for Teachers**

All schools are bracing themselves for higher staff absence this term with the rapid transmission of the Omicron variant. With this in mind, we would be interested to hear from any primary school teachers who are not currently working, in case we need back-up in the next few weeks. In the first instance we will use our existing staff, but we are just planning for a ‘worst-case scenario’.

**Clubs this term**

Please contact the office for places at any of the after-school clubs, maximum of 20 places. Children should be collected from the back of the Hall for clubs in the Hall and Year 3, outside Year 1 for Choir, the top door for Homework Club and the playground for outside clubs.

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|  | Lunchtime | After school |
| Monday |  | Ball Games (Years R, 1 and 2) 3.20-4.20pm Mr Faulkner (a few places still available) |
| Tuesday | Library Club (Years 3,4,5 and 6) Mrs Cole | Table Tennis (Years 4, 5 and 6) Mr Salisbury 3.20-4.10pm, starting 18th January.  Homework Club (Years 3 and 4) Ms Wonnacott 3.20-4pm  Homework Club Years 5 and 6) Mrs Saunders 3.20-4.00pm |
| Wednesday | Computing Club Mrs Howard | Football Club (Years 3-6) Mr Coates 3.20-4.20pm – FULL  Choir (Year 3 and 4) Mrs Stone 3.20-4.10pm |
| Thursday | Art Club (All Years) Mrs Steele, outside.  Recorders (Year 2) Mrs Chalke | Fencing (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) 3.20-4.20pm Mr Faulkner -  FULL |
| Friday |  | Warriors |

**Asda grant for Lunchtime Play equipment**

The vote for projects is live and will close at midnight on Monday 31st January 2022. When I voted this morning we were just ahead of our friends at Motcombe Primary! It only takes 10 seconds to vote, please help us with this fundraising.

We can all vote by visiting [www.asda.com/green-tokens](http://www.asda.com/green-tokens) and selecting Gillingham from the drop-down box. Everyone can vote once every seven days, so please return and re-vote in the following weeks.

Michael Salisbury, Head teacher

**September 2021 to August 2022**

**Spring Term**

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| INSET DAY | Tuesday 4 January 2022 |
| Children start back | Wednesday 5 January 2022 |
| Spring half term  INSET DAY | Monday 21 February 2022 to Friday 25 February 2022  Monday 14th March 2022 |
| Spring term ends  INSET DAY | Thursday 7 April 2022  Friday 8th April 2022 |
| Easter holidays | Monday 11 April 2022 to Friday 22 April 2022 |

**Summer Term**

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| Children start back | Monday 25 April 2022 |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 2 May 2022 (May Day Bank Holiday) |
| Summer half term | Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022 |
| INSET DAY | Monday 6 June 2022 |
| Summer term ends | Friday 22 July 2022 |
| Summer holidays | Monday 25 July 2022 to Wednesday 31 August 2022 |