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Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to school after the Christmas break, and a Happy New Year to you all.

Covid is still very much on our minds at this time, we are continuing with our enhanced measures during January at least. The update today is that one of our children has a confirmed case and is isolating, another three have positive LFTs and are awaiting PCR results. As it’s the first day, they haven’t been in school yet so no further action is required. So far we don’t have any staff with positive tests, but we know this could change quickly if any cases appear in school. Please continue to do everything you can to keep cases from spreading in school.

**Learning and Homework this term**

The Spring Term is the most productive time for all our children to make great progress in their learning. Now that they are used to the new staff and ways of working in their class, they are all set for a superb term ahead. Please support them to do the very best they can do by ensuring they carry out all homework and reading tasks on time. Getting children into good homework patterns is a well-proven route to success at school and into the wider world beyond…make it a New Years’ Resolution!

**PE Kit and coats**

Please make sure your children wear the correct school PE kit on days when they have a lesson or sports club. School sweatshirts should be worn over tee-shirts in cold weather. Every child should have a named coat in school every day so that they can be outside comfortably this term.

**Email contact**

One of the ongoing pressures for teachers following the recent lockdowns is the dramatic increase in the number of emails they receive from parents in the evenings and at weekends. Please keep your emails to a minimum, urgent matters should be emailed or phoned in to the office, where they will be passed on to the teacher. We don’t expect our busy teachers to be checking or answering emails after 5pm or at the weekend. I know you are very respectful of this, thank you.

**Children’s mental health support**

We are very keen to help our children with any mental health issues, either by supporting them in school through our ELSA referral system or by signposting families to other specialist help.

One such organisation is the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families. The website has lots of good tips and advice for parents.

[www.annafreud.org](http://www.annafreud.org)

**Snow arrangements**

If the school has to be closed due to heavy snow at any time, please check your emails for a message from us at school, have a look at the school website for a message on the home page and listen for the list of closed schools on local radio stations.

**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 |