

Dunmow St Mary's Primary School

High Stile, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1EB
Telephone 01371 872340
Facsimile 01371 875144
E-mail admin@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk



Friday 12th February 2021

Dear Parents

We have reached the end of six weeks of remote learning and everyone is ready for a half term holiday. Take the opportunity to get some fresh air, exercise, time away from screens and enjoy being with your close family. Please continue to follow social distancing and government guidelines at all times. School starts back on Monday 22nd in the same way it has been working over this half term.

Parent Consultations

Our parent consultation evenings are on Monday 15th March and Wednesday 17th March. These will be virtual meetings as in October and will start at 3.30pm. Hopefully we will have been back in school for a week by then and these consultations can be used to a) discuss the autumn assessments, b) talk about the home learning and c) discuss how your child has settled back into school.

If you have had a lot of communication with your child's teacher during lockdown and feel there is nothing extra to discuss then please don't feel that it is compulsory to sign up. Initially, we will release times from 3.30pm until 5.00pm on both days. Then if there is a high demand for appointments, we will release the later times. Appointments can be booked via your child's online account at www.scopay.com or via the Scopay app from Monday morning and the bookings will close on Sunday 14th March.

Olivers Lodge

Last week we heard the sad news that a team member at Olivers Lodge, our breakfast and after school club, had passed away. She will be missed by all the children she cared for and our thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues.

COVID19 Contact tracing over half term

If your child undertakes a Covid test over the half term period and the result is positive please note that you must advise the school of the result even if your child has not been in attendance. Please send an email to admin@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk stating your child's name, date of symptoms starting, date and time of positive test being received. We will be monitoring this mailbox over the break. Further guidance can be found at the foot of the newsletter.

Covid19 Walk in tests

People without Covid19 symptoms who live and work in Essex are now being offered walk-in appointments for a rapid test at their local test centre. Tests had initially been available by booking an appointment in advance. The new option brings more flexibility, especially for those who are unable to work from home and want to get tested for peace of mind. Around a third of people with Covid19 have no symptoms and could be spreading the virus unknowingly. Although case numbers are declining, there is still a worrying number of people with Covid19 in Essex. Walk-in or book an appointment via the [Essex County Council website](https://www.essex.gov.uk) or by calling 0333 772 6144. Anyone with symptoms should book a test via www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test.



The poster features a central image of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) gathered around a table, preparing food together. The text on the poster includes the 'Changing Lives' logo, the title 'Supporting Families', and a 'Free' badge. It specifies the 'FOOD PACKAGES FEB HALF TERM' from Monday 15th to Friday 19th February. A 'PICK UP' section lists two locations: Location 1 (Essex Primary School) and Location 2 (Essex Primary School). A 'BOOK A SLOT' section provides instructions on how to book a slot, including a phone number and a website link. Logos for Active Essex and Essex County Council are also present.

Supporting families with food packages

Dunmow Town Council have made us aware of this facility over half term for any families who are struggling at the moment. Food packages are available and you are able to book a collection slot or request delivery if you are isolating or unable to make it to the collection point. Full details can be found on the community noticeboard page of our website at <https://dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk/parents/community-noticeboard/>

Yours sincerely
Clare Griffiths

Covid19 guidance

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 within 48 hours of being in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned. You should let your school know that this has occurred. The quickest way to obtain a test is to book a test at your local testing centre via <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. Please do not use postal tests unless absolutely necessary as these take longer.

If the test result is positive for COVID19, you must inform the school, who will identify if there are any other individuals within the school community who are impacted by this.

If the test result is negative, you should inform the school and you do not need to take any further action.

You should contact the school by email to admin@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk. **These emails will be picked up remotely. Please DO NOT PHONE the school as the answer phone will not be monitored. You must provide the following:**
name, date of symptoms starting, date and time of positive test being received

If your child develops symptoms of COVID19 more than 48 hours after their last day in school

You must seek a test for your child and the household must isolate at home until the test result is returned.

If the test result is positive for COVID-19, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, you must contact NHS Test and Trace and follow the advice given by them:
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/

You should contact the school if your child will be absent in time for the first day of the new half term.

If your child has no symptoms of COVID19 but tests positive within 48 hours of being in school

It is important to follow the guidance around accessing a test only when the individual is showing signs of COVID19. However, if your child is asymptomatic and returns a positive test result within 48 hours of last being in school, please let the school know straight away.

You should contact the school on admin@dsmprimary.essex.sch.uk. **These emails will be picked up remotely. Please DO NOT PHONE the school as the answer phone will not be monitored.**

You must provide the following:

name, date of symptoms starting, date and time of positive test being received

If you are contacted by the school because your child is identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID19, they must self-isolate for 10 days.

Please adhere to social distancing and all COVID19 guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of the virus.