



School Newsletter

11th March 2021

It has been so lovely to welcome you all back to school. During this last lockdown we have had three new children start at Astbury. A special welcome to Isaac, Lily and Erin. We have also welcomed new staff members. Mrs Booth and Mrs Friel have joined our Teaching Assistant team and Mrs Hamilton has returned from her maternity leave. Miss Smith started this week as our School Business Manager. Our wonderful Astbury family has already started to make them feel very welcome! We have said goodbye to Mrs Parry, Mrs Howard and Mrs Loomes and we wish them all the best in the future.

Social distancing at the gate

Please remember to keep 2m away from other families as you arrive and leave school. Passing on the path is OK but at the gate, there is a small bottleneck – especially at the end of the day. Please think about hanging back and waiting a few moments to spread out the flow of people leaving the school playground. ←-----2m-----→



Year six Parents

Please remember to accept your child's place for high school by Monday 15th March.



Comic Relief – 19th March:

Red Nose Day is back, next Friday - 19th March and this year it's never felt more important to have some fun and raise money to support people living incredibly tough lives. This year, we'll be living out our Christian values and walking in love as we dress up as superheroes to raise money for Red Nose Day! Please see the email that was sent to all parents yesterday for further information.

Census – 21st March 2021:

Census day is coming! If your child was born after March 2011 then this is their first opportunity to be on the national census! This is the once in a decade time we count the population of England and Wales - and this time you can do it online. The information that the census provides has a direct impact on the support that we provide to schools. Please encourage everyone you know to get involved and look out for your information packs explaining what to do next. They are being delivered to every home in the country. Link address: <https://census.gov.uk/>

Snacks and lunches on ParentPay:

To protect the staff in school and stop Alison having to leave the kitchen to mix between bubbles, please make sure that lunches and snacks are booked on ParentPay. Please try not to leave this to the last minute at the weekend as snacks get 'locked' by ParentPay. Please use 'make bookings' otherwise Alison can't tell when your child wants their snack.

Amaven App:

Astbury St Mary's Primary School

The Astbury St Mary's Primary School PE App allows children to access fun and exciting activities at home that will help keep children active

WELCOME!
A multiskilled activities app to help you be more active

Regular use of your school app will support your children to:

- Develop Fundamental Movement Skills, such as Agility, Balance and Coordination
- Learn new sports skills, dance and yoga
- Improve overall wellbeing and fitness

Amaven have released a new app that enables you to track your child's fitness on your phone. It is free to download and allows children to access fun and exciting activities that will not only contribute to the recommended 60 Active Minutes of activity every day, but also develop their physical literacy and confidence. Teachers have emailed parents about this.

COVID testing for adults in families: See further information – end of newsletter

From Monday 15th March additional asymptomatic testing sites will be in operation across Cheshire east at the following venues:

Macclesfield Community Centre – Dukess Street, SK11 6UR

New Life Church, Danesford Community Centre, West Road, Congleton, CW12 4EU

Wesley Centre, Sandbach – Wesley Avenue, CW11 1DG

Middlewich Community Church – Brooks Lane, CW10 0JG

Prestbury Village Hall – Macclesfield Road, SK10 4BW

Testing is also available at selected pharmacies. Tests at both the asymptomatic testing sites and pharmacies are available on selected days of the week and must be booked in advanced using the online booking facility at <https://cheshireeast.zipporah.co.uk/LFT.Bookings>.

Adults should be testing twice weekly and can collect lateral flow testing kits from either of the council's two local testing sites between 1.30pm and 7pm. These two sites are based at;

Crewe - Chester Street car park, CW1 2ER

Macclesfield - Commercial Road, SK10 2QJ

These tests are not for use with pupils and students. Primary school children have not been asked to take the LFD test, and tests for secondary and college students will be issued by their school / college.

A positive result from a home testing kit does however require a confirmatory PCR test. This must be a traditional Covid-19 test offered at the two testing sites in Crewe or Macclesfield, a postal one ordered online or one of your school supply. Although this is an inconvenience it doesn't affect the 10-day isolation start date, which will commence after the lateral flow positive result itself.

This is not the case for a positive result from lateral flow tests carried out in a pharmacy or at an asymptomatic testing site. No confirmatory test is needed, and self-isolation must start immediately upon receiving the results.

Public Health England team:

Part of our COVID risk assessment is to make you aware of how to contact the Public Health England team. To get support from our local health protection team, their contact details are:

Cheshire and Merseyside Health Protection team: 0344 225 0562

World Book Day Vouchers:

For World Book day, we are distributing £1 book tokens to every pupil. To see how you can use your token, please check their website:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Parents and Friends' Association news: Minutes from Autumn term – end of newsletter

For Easter this year, the PFA are holding a photograph competition. The title of the competition is 'spring wildlife' and the photograph must contain plants or animals.

There is a £1 entry cost – cash to Miss Blythe on the school gate and then please email your child's photograph – one that they have taken –to their class teacher by Friday 26th March. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each class.

Congleton High School are also running a similar competition for the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the winning photograph from each class at Astbury will be entered into the High School competition where winners will receive a gift pack and be entered into the Cheshire Wildlife Trust calendar competition.

Pre-loved uniform sale:

If you have any uniform which no longer fits your child, would you consider sending it into school for a PFA uniform sale? Please send any uniform which still has plenty of wear left in it into school. When we have enough for a small sale, and COVID quarantine of items is over, we will arrange a sale.

Diary Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 25 th March	Y5/6 Easter lesson via Zoom with churches together in Congleton
Friday 26 th March	PFA photography competition deadline for entries
Thursday 1 st April	School closes for Easter break
Monday 19 th April	School opens for Summer term
Monday 3 rd May	School closed for bank holiday
Thursday 6 th May	PFA film night
Saturday 17 th July	Astbury May Day! Save the date

Astbury School Parents and Friends' Association

Charity Number **1103416**

Date of meeting: Monday 30th November 2020

minutes' number: 14.0

Attendance (Via Zoom)		Apologies	
Claire Carter CC Pip Blythe PB Gail Bonney GB Kath Moore KM Jane Moore JM Hazel Bourke HB Jenna Parry JP		Steph Morris SM Louise Jones LJ Lisa Galluzzo LG	
Agenda item	Action	By Whom	
<i>Minutes from previous meeting – 10th November 2020</i> Agreed and signed as a correct record	Email to parents Make copies available in school	PB/GB	
<u>Finance/Treasurers Report</u> Cheque has been sent to Parentkind to pay for the renewal of our insurance Can we gift aid?	KM to look into the details of this	KM KM	
<u>Christmas Preparations</u> Christmas lunch, visit to Santa's outdoor grotto and children's chocolate tombola to go ahead on Wednesday 2 nd December. Selection boxes wrapped Crackers purchased Thank you present for Santa to be arranged	Thanks GB & KM	GB GB	

<p><u>Raffle</u></p> <p>Bottles for Christmas jumpers this Friday 4th December. Staff and donations are hoping to make up a booze hamper, food hamper x2, pamper hamper, luxury hamper and chocolate hamper for prizes. GB would like help making these up if possible.</p> <p>GB to get baskets</p> <p>Other prizes include a Christmas cake made by JM, pizza making kit, chocolate bouquet & £20 M&S voucher</p>	<p>Ask SM if she has purchased the voucher</p>	<p>GB</p>
<p><u>Film night – Thursday 10th December 3.20 – 5.30</u></p> <p>Two Christmas films to be shown, one in each ‘bubble’.</p> <p>Bubble one – Class Noah – Arthur Christmas</p> <p>Bubble two – Classes Mary & Jacob – Nativity 3</p> <p>Hot dogs, bread rolls & serviettes to be purchased</p> <p>Juice, crisps, sweets purchased</p> <p>Cakes, ketchup to be purchased</p> <p>HB to supply veggie sausage if required</p>	<p>Supported by Mrs Stevens/ HB Supported by LG</p>	<p>GB</p> <p>JM</p> <p>JM</p> <p>HB</p>
<p><u>Pantomime</u></p> <p>Still going ahead as planned</p>		
<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>HB to ask Robert Lomas if he would be able to donate oranges, as he did last year, so the children can make them into Christingles for the church service on Friday 18th December. Approx 83 required.</p> <p>School has ribbon and candles if required</p> <p>Autumn newsletter discussed</p> <p>Keep advertising PFA events, meetings</p>	<p>JM to create an Autumn newsletter</p>	<p>HB</p> <p>JM</p> <p>PB/JM</p>
<p><i>Date of next meeting</i> TBA</p>	<p>Advertise the date & Zoom code distributed</p>	<p>PB</p>

These minutes are agreed as a correct record of the meeting Monday 30th November 2020 held via Zoom. (To be agreed and signed at the next meeting)

Parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges

A guide to regular rapid Covid-19 testing



Regular rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and bubbles.

Regular rapid testing is a fast and easy way to find out if you have coronavirus and help protect your loved ones and community. It's free and takes around 30 minutes.

Why introduce regular rapid testing?

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

Regular rapid testing is now available for parents of nursery, school children and college students. As well as adults in their households, childcare and support bubbles.

Regular testing for people without symptoms is already taking place across the country. Thousands of people who didn't know they had the virus have been able to take action to stop the spread of the disease.

As lockdown restrictions ease, getting into the regular habit of twice weekly testing will play an important role in getting back to normal; alongside the vaccine, following the hands, face, space guidance, and social distancing measures.

Regular testing for school staff and students

Regular rapid testing is already available to all staff at nursery, primary and secondary schools and colleges.

Secondary school and college students aged 11 and above will continue to access regular rapid tests directly through their school or college. And we continue to encourage them to get tested.

On return they will initially be supervised while testing at school and then continue to test themselves at home with test kits they will get from school or college.

Nursery and primary school children are not being asked to be tested as evidence continues to show that children and young people are at low risk from Covid-19 and are very unlikely to get seriously ill.

What is the benefit to you?

By taking part in regular rapid testing, you'll be protecting yourself and your loved ones. And helping us all get back to a more normal way of life.



How does it work?

It's a simple swab test you can do at home, school, work or test site, using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). It takes around 30 minutes to find out if you have the virus.

The test detects viral proteins that are present when someone has Covid-19. Research from Public Health England and Oxford University shows that they pick up the vast majority of people in the most infectious stage of the disease. With up to 1 in 3 people who have the virus showing no symptoms – they could be spreading it without knowing.

Testing should take place twice a week, every three – five days, ideally in the morning. Why not add this to your morning routine?

If you test negative, you can continue to go to work. You should still strictly follow all other government guidelines and avoid all unnecessary contact. If you, your household or bubble test positive, you should all self-isolate immediately. And then the person who has tested positive should also take a confirmatory PCR test and follow latest government guidance.

For more information visit [gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms)



Reporting your test

You should report your results online straight away, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: [gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If you have tested positive, you can also check to see if you are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.



Where can I get tested?

If you are a parent or adult of a household, childcare or support bubble you can either:

1. Get an assisted test at work if it is available.
2. Attend a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.
3. Order a test online to do at home.

To find out how to get a free rapid Covid-19 test visit [gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing)

Regular rapid testing is for those without symptoms of Coronavirus. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book through [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)



YouTube Introduction to Rapid Lateral Flow testing