

Friday 17th December 2021

Dear Parents,

As you will have seen, Covid cases across England have risen dramatically in the last week and this is now impacting upon schools. At Giles Brook we have had several cases reported with two of our year groups being very low on numbers due to positive cases or self isolation. We are really sorry that some of our children have missed the end of term but grateful that, for most children, symptoms are mild and short lived, thank goodness. The new Omicron variant is now widespread. Please refer to the details at the end of the letter sent out this week by MK Council.

Please also ensure you take all the measures you can to have a happy, safe and successful Christmas with families and friends.

On a much better note, the children in school have certainly enjoyed the run up to the Christmas break. We had a very successful 'live streamed' version of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' yesterday afternoon and our Y4 children enjoyed their live visit to the pantomime. The singing on the playground has been lovely each afternoon and we are grateful for the super support from yourselves and your families. The children did a fantastic job and the weather held out each day too! Well done also has to go to our 4 musicians, who played on Tuesday, as they managed a stunning performance of 'Away in a Manger'.



The Foundation, Nursery, Y1 and Y2 filming of the Christmas plays has now been shared via Tapestry and Google Classrooms for you to access - we very much hope you enjoy watching your lovely children perform. A very big 'Thank you' goes to Horatiu, one of our dads in Y3, who did a stunning job with the filming in Key Stage One. We are very grateful for his support this year.

We had two amazing Christingle Services on Thursday morning for Y4 and Y2. Our Y4 children made their own Christingles and the hall was aglow with light as the children sang. Mike Morris led the assembly with some great story telling of 'the Noisy Stable'.

Today, out of the blue, we received a visit from the **real red man himself!** Santa visited classes and brought presents for the children to use during indoor playtimes. Thanks go to our wonderful Friends Association for facilitating such a visit - they always seem to know how to get hold of him! The children's faces were a picture!



### Governor Awards

Well done to all those who nominated children and staff for our Governor challenge this term - **'name someone who has inspired you to try something new'**. Our Governors had lots of entries and the winners for this term received their certificates today. Please find the attached information which also includes all those who deserve an honourable mention. There were some very impressive nominations and clearly some great achievements too! Well done!

### Congratulations go to Nick Halasz

Nick was very kindly nominated for his work at Giles Brook and for his support within the community of Tattenhoe by one of our parents. I'm pleased to say that he won one of the prizes on offer and was presented with his gift by Councillor James Lancaster earlier this week. Well done Nick - very well deserved too!



### Eco Council Poster Competition

A huge thank you and well done to those children who entered the Eco Council poster competition: we had over 50 entries! The Eco Council met this week to judge all of the posters and have chosen the following children as winners: Willow (Y6); Isabella (Y3); Anaya (Y3). Well done!

These designs will be made into a poster to be displayed around school. The members of the Eco Council would also like to give honourable mentions to the following children for their superb effort: Rafferty (Y2); Nia (Y3), Yasmin (Y6). Well done everyone!



Finally, we would like to thank all our staff for the tremendous work they have done this term; our cleaning team, midday supervisors, before and after school teams, office staff, teaching assistants and teachers. It has been a real team effort and we are proud to work with such a caring and hardworking team of people. We would also like to thank you, as parents, for all your support. Our staff thank you for the many gifts and cards received - not necessary at all - but very kind. We all wish you a very **Merry Christmas** - one which you hopefully can enjoy safely with your families.

We look forward to seeing everyone again on **Tuesday 4th January 2022** for the start of the Spring Term. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all and let's keep our fingers crossed for safer and healthier 2022.

Angie

Claire

Debbie

Angie Bailey  
Deputy Headteacher/Head of School

Claire Britnell  
Headteacher

Debbie Williamson  
Assistant Headteacher

## **Message from MK Council**

### **MK has among highest numbers of COVID-19 cases in England**

Almost 800 new cases of COVID-19 were recorded in Milton Keynes across Monday and Tuesday this week, the highest numbers seen since January. This means MK has the 11th highest level of infection across all local authority areas in England.

The Omicron variant is spreading rapidly in MK, doubling every two days and now accounting for more than 40% of local cases. Omicron is far more likely than the Delta variant to cause re-infection, and close contacts are around twice as likely to become infected themselves.

Public health officials are not yet clear whether Omicron is more or less severe than previous variants, but even with the Government's newly announced Plan B measures, scientists predict a large rise in cases and hospitalisations.

Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes, Vicky Head is urging local people to take sensible precautions to prevent spread, saying:

“We are seeing a dramatic rise in cases of COVID-19 at the moment. The Omicron variant is a significant threat to the NHS and has the potential to cause major disruption to schools, workplaces and our personal lives. Vaccination, including the booster, remains the single biggest thing you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19. I urge everyone eligible to come forward for vaccination – whether that be a booster or your first dose, as it's not too late to be vaccinated for the first time. Doing so will have a direct impact on the spread of this virus. Alongside this, it's crucial we keep up with sensible precautions like wearing a face covering, taking regular rapid tests, making sure we ventilate indoor spaces when meeting with others and following all national advice.”

### **Top precautions to reduce the risk of catching or passing on COVID-19 are:**

- Be fully vaccinated. Find out more about vaccinations including walk-in sessions at [www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/booster](http://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/covid-19/booster).
- Stay at home if you have COVID-19 symptoms and book a PCR test as soon as possible. Use lateral flow tests when required and regularly even if you have no symptoms, as one in three people with COVID-19 will not experience symptoms. If you are meeting up with others, take a lateral flow test beforehand.
- Wear a face covering in busy indoor areas. Face coverings are once again mandatory in shops, on public transport and some other indoor settings.
- The risk of catching the virus is higher in crowded and poorly ventilated places. When meeting up with people you don't live with, choose an outdoor space if you can or open windows to let fresh air in if you meet indoors.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly – especially before and after coming into contact with areas touched by many people, and before eating.