

21st May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing today with a couple of reminders and some updates on events taking place in school.

Snacks

Just a polite reminder that one of our curriculum aims is to promote healthy eating with the children. This can be a contentious topic, as it can be difficult to agree on a definition of unhealthy food and it also depends on the quantity and frequency involved when eating such foods. As a general rule, we ask parents/carers not to send children with snacks which have a high sugar content such as chocolate and sweets. It is also important to ensure that nothing containing nuts is brought into school as we have a number of children with a severe allergy to nuts or anything containing nut products.

Walking to School Week

A big thank you to all our families who tried to reduce their carbon footprint this week by abandoning the car or bus and using other means of transport to get to and from school. This is particularly remarkable given the shocking weather we have had in the latter part of the week. Cold Bath Road was noticeably quieter on Monday morning especially. A great effort. On the theme of environmental issues, please check out the video on the Newsletter this week, made by our recently formed, Western Waste Warriors! This is also available on Twitter.

Lateral Flow Tests

I am aware that these tests have been available to the general public for some time now and that many parents/carers may be using them each week. Please note that, should you be unfortunate enough to get a positive test result, you and everyone living with you at home would be required to self-isolate for 10 days. The person testing positive should also take a follow-up PCR test as soon as possible following the positive LFT result. Please inform the school if this is the case and we will be able to give you further advice.

Emergency Response Drill

Schools are now required to have an Emergency Response Plan and to practise one category each term. There are 3 categories of response:

1. Evacuation - this is when the site has been declared unsafe (for example due to a gas leak) and we have to evacuate the site. Our alternative locations are the scout building on St Mary's Walk for pupils in EYFS and Y1. Pupils in Y2 - 6 will be taken to Harrogate

Grammar School. This would only ever happen in a serious emergency and parents would be kept informed at all times.

2. Lock Out – this is when the school has been alerted to a potential threat on the school grounds or in the locality. In this scenario, all pupils remain in their classrooms, any pupils outside are brought in and all external doors are secured.
3. Lock In – this would be triggered if an intruder ever gained access to the inside of the school building and posed a potential threat. In this scenario, pupils would again remain in their classrooms and the classroom doors would be bolted to deter anyone from entering.

I appreciate that this sounds alarming but please be reassured that the likelihood of any of these scenarios actually happening is very small. However, it pays to be prepared and having such a plan and carrying out regular practice drills is a sensible requirement. In the event of a real incident, we would also have the full back up of the Trust's Core team to help us to respond. A copy of our Emergency Response Plan will be available on the website next week.

Next Tuesday, we will practice scenario 2. We will talk to all the children ahead of this drill so they understand what is happening and are not unduly alarmed.

I hope that everyone enjoys a restful weekend,

With kind regards,

Tim Broad

Headteacher

