Newsletter 07.01.22

Severndale Star

Principal's Message

Hello to all parents and carers and Happy New Year to you and your families!

It was great to see all our young people coming back into school on Monday and as always the sound of happiness filled the school as the transport arrived and pupils returned to class. Pupils have settled really well back into their class routines and carried on with their learning like they have never been away.

COVID UPDATE

I am sure you are aware that the local rates of Covid are rising at a rapid pace and unfortunately this is being reflected in some areas of the school with regards to staff absence. We are doing everything we possibly can to ensure classes can continue to operate and are being as rigorous as we can in ensuring all of our Covid measures are being followed. Unfortunately we have still needed to close some classes this week for a short period of time due to staff absence which is always our very last resort. We will obviously keep you informed if new cases do have any impact on the staffing of classes within the academy. Thankyou to those parents and carers that supported us by sending in pupils with masks (above year 7) and allowed testing to happen on Tuesday too.

We are continuing to follow national guidance and also liaising closely with the National Health Security Agency Shropshire hub and they are still advising us that if we have a positive case within a class then ALL close contacts (the rest of the class and transport links) need to either take a PCR test or self isolate. This decision has been made based on national data that highlights people with disabilities being more vulnerable to the impact of the virus.

As we move into 2022 the government have made some more changes to the advice and as from Tuesday of next week the need to have a PCR test will be replaced by a LFT / LFD test unless a pupil is displaying symptoms. This is a temporary measure instructed by the government to reduce the numbers of people accessing PCR tests. This has added to our existing procedures and therefore from a Severndale pupil perspective we would ask the following from Tuesday based on government guidance;

- Pupils with symptoms should get a PCR test and self isolate
- Pupils who are a close contact ie, a class friend or someone on transport, should complete a LFT test and if negative can return to school. If the test returns a positive result then the pupil should self isolate for the 'isolation period'
- Any pupils testing twice per week who receive a positive LFT should isolate for the 'isolation period'

PLEASE NOTE CHAGES TO THE ISOLATION GUIDANCE – If a positive test has been returned then pupils should isolate immediately. New guidance states that if a pupil completes a LFT on day 6 and then a second LFT on day 7 then they can return to school on the 7th day. If the test is still positive then they must continue to isolate until the 10th day OR until they receive two consecutive negative tests on separate days.

The guidance is changing rapidly and also the government are introducing temporary procedures that also add more complication into the process and we would encourage any parent and carer who has any questions about Covid and testing to contact the academy for more information.

FOODBANK REQUEST

Our foodbank at school has been a real success story and the use of the foodbank is growing every term. Unfortunately, due to a high demand for the service we are now running short of pre-packaged foods and if any parent or carer would like to donate any food then that would be appreciated. Alternatively if you feel that you would benefit from accessing the foodbank then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher to find out more information.
As always please enjoy the photographs of what has been happening in the school this week and have a happy and healthy weekend

Brian

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EYFS Activities

Early years have been looking at different fine motor skill activities this week, from pressing switches and buttons, to moving cars and cutting and sticking. They have also had some very messy creative time making a very large art collage and using paints.

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Arriving at Severndale

We have had so many smiley faces arriving at Severndale this week, we are so proud of the students who have come in and carried on with their learning after the two week break for Christmas

LFT Testing at Severndale

We started the week testing those of our students aged 12 years (who wanted to be tested) with LFT tests in the drama hall. The students behaved amazingly and were really helpful.

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Please donate to our food bank

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Rebound Sessions

P8 started the week with a rebound session the students were very excited to see the trampoline and be able to choose the songs they wanted to sing whilst using it. Whilst the students were waiting their turn they were able to use the coloured parachute to take it in turns to sing their songs.

Safe Circle and Kindness Displays

Both F4 and F5 have made the most inspirational displays outside their classrooms. F4 learnt all about the Safe Circle and who they could contact if they ever felt that they needed to talk to someone or needed help in any way. F5 have created a kindness display which was sparked by antibullying week and they discussed and looked at how to be kind to others, how to be a kind person and also how to be a good person.

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Staff Spotlight

Each week we will now be including a "Staff Spotlight" section where you can meet the staff in our newsletter and this will allow everyone to find out more about the people who work at Severndale. Today's meet the staff is all about Brian…

Name: Brian Thomas
Job: Principal

What does this involve?
I am responsible for making Severndale a happy, safe and high quality academy.
I lead the team that ensures the education provision for every pupil at Severndale is as good as it can be and also make sure pupils are safe and happy. I am also responsible for looking after staff and making sure staff are working together to enable all of our pupils to progress.

What do I enjoy outside of school?
I enjoy spending time with my family and being outdoors as much as possible. I run and cycle regularly and enjoy being active. I can also play the guitar and drums.

Please tell us something interesting about you?
Just before Christmas I gained my very first yellow belt at Martial Arts!

What's happening this term!

Dates Coming up...

Last Day of half term Friday 18 February 2022
First Day after half term Monday 28 February 2022

Our New Website

Take a look at our new website at:

www.severndaleacademy.co.uk

We are adding new information every week

Learning Community Trust Severndale Specialist Academy

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