

## William Penn Newsletter January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023

### Welcome Back

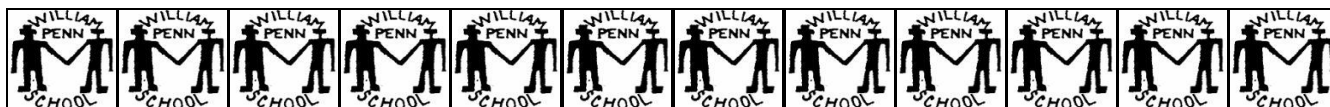
We would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our pupils and families. We have enjoyed hearing about the experiences enjoyed by pupils during the holiday. However, we have also heard that many of our pupils have been unwell whilst away from school. We have reminded the children of our standard health and hygiene procedures in assembly this morning. In addition, please have a look at the article from BBC News included below.

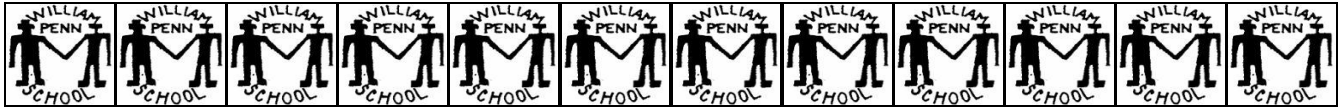


### Dates List

As a reminder, please find below, an extract from the school calendar.

January 2023	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Spring Term commences
17 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day for parents to visit school
February 2023	
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> inclusive	Half term
20 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY school closed to pupils
March 2023	
21 <sup>st</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Consultation Evenings 3.15pm-6pm
31 <sup>st</sup>	Last day of Spring Term and Parents' Assembly 2.15pm
April 2023	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Summer Term commences
May 2023	
1 <sup>st</sup>	Bank Holiday
8 <sup>th</sup>	King Charles III Coronation Bank Holiday
w/o 8 <sup>th</sup>	Test Week for Years 5&6
19 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Celebration 1.30pm
26 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Celebration Rain Off 1.30pm
29 <sup>th</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> June inclusive	Half term
June 2023	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day for parents to visit school
7 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Meeting for new parents 7pm
8 <sup>th</sup> (pm) and 15 <sup>th</sup> (am)	New intake taster sessions and school transition times
19 <sup>th</sup>	INSET DAY school closed to pupils
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Parents' Assembly at 2.15pm
30 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day 1.30pm
July 2023	
7 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day Rain Off 1.30pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Pupil Reports to Parents
12 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Consultation Evening 3.15pm-6pm
TBC	Years 6 Visit to the Blue Idol
21 <sup>st</sup>	William Penn End of Year Leavers' Assembly – last day of term for pupils





## Safeguarding/Health and Safety/Wellbeing Update

By Hazel Shearing BBC News

Education correspondent

**Parents in England are being urged to keep children off school if they are unwell and have a fever, amid high levels of flu and Covid-19 cases.**

The same applies for nurseries, according to **advice from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).**

The number of scarlet fever cases is also high, it warned.

A head teachers' union welcomed the advice, issued as pupils prepare to return to lessons after the Christmas holidays.

Flu and Covid cases are "currently circulating at high levels and are likely to continue to increase in coming weeks", the UKHSA said.

"High numbers of scarlet fever, which is caused by group A streptococcus, also continue to be reported."

Prof Susan Hopkins, its chief medical adviser, said: "If your child is unwell and has a fever, they should stay home from school or nursery until they feel better and the fever has resolved."

She also stressed the importance of washing hands and catching coughs and sneezes in tissues.

Adults should also stay at home when unwell and wear a face covering if they have to go out, she said. Those who are ill should avoid healthcare settings and vulnerable people unless urgent, she added.

- **How many people have Covid-19 in the UK?**
- **More pupils off school ill as flu cases rise**
- **Strep A: What is strep A and what are the symptoms?**

Prof Hopkins said uptake of the flu vaccine remained low among young children, but it was still available for:

- children aged two and three on 31 August
- all primary school children
- some secondary school children

More than 1.4 million people in the UK, about one-in-45, were infected with Covid in the week ending 9 December, **according to the latest official data.**

Hospital admissions from flu in England were at their highest level since the winter of 2017-2018.

Health officials also say **parents should be aware of strep A,** an infection that can cause scarlet fever, after children in the UK died from it.

Absence rates across schools in England rose sharply at the start of December as more pupils missed class due to illness.

The proportion of children off sick rose to 7.5% in the week commencing 5 December - up from 6.1% the previous week and 2.6% at the start of the term.

Overall absence rates up to that week surpassed the whole of the 2021 autumn term, when Omicron was taking hold.

James Bowen, director of policy for school leaders' union NAHT, said there "does appear to be an unusually high level of illness around at the moment, even for this time of year".

"Advice from government is welcome to give schools and parents clarity on when children should stay at home," he said.

"It is quite common for school policies to already state that children with a fever should remain at home, so this shouldn't represent a major departure from existing policies."

