



# APLEY NEWS



## Headteacher Message

It has certainly been an extraordinary term, with many things that have been new, different and at times challenging. The end of term hasn't been how we would all have liked it to be, however, I feel it is important to reflect on some of the positives and successes that we, as the Apley community, have achieved since the return to school in September.

The children have demonstrated how much they enjoy being back at school, their fantastic work ethic has been evident and their resilience and flexibility getting used to the new routines has astounded me. Our attendance rates have been brilliant, above national figures, throughout the term and we end the term with an overall attendance figure of 96.6%. I have seen a joy of learning with some great progress in all year groups and some exceptional phonics and early reading skills from Reception and KS1 children. The staff and children have adapted to the new norm of virtual assemblies, virtual meetings and, in some KS2 year groups, virtual teachers! The staff team have worked relentlessly to ensure they continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have gone above and beyond to support the risk assessments and ensure safe routines are followed. We have enjoyed school events that have brought our whole school together virtually with the Winter Olympic games and the Great Apley Make off. Our new Daily Mile track has also been used with much enthusiasm. We have worked together to access the steep learning curve of remote learning with much success and whilst we will continually review this system to see how we can improve, I am immensely proud of how quickly everyone adapted to this when they needed to. As a wider community, we have supported others during these difficult times including raising money for Place2be, Children in need, Save the Children and donating to Telford Food Bank. This is testament to the thoughtful community we have.

I'd like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment to our school, it has been a difficult term, with situations that have changed very quickly and our team have demonstrated a resilient, positive approach. Our Governors have remained involved virtually and I'd like to thank them for their continued support this term. I'd also like to say huge thank you to all of our parents for your continued support and your understanding in such challenging times. We appreciate that bubble closures do cause a concern and appreciate your support, and kind words which recognise the hard work of our team. We are unable to predict when or how the virus will impact our community. I have been in regular contact with the health protection hub who confirm the risk assessment measures we have in place are robust and we will continue to follow these and adhere to any changing guidance in the new year. The recent Government announcement regarding staggered starts in school from January does not apply to Primary Schools and I look forward to seeing everyone back on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

On behalf of everyone here at Apley, I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas break and a wonderful New Year.

Keep safe and stay well.

Kind regards

**Mrs Ellen Smith - Headteacher**



## Inside this issue:

School Starters 2021	2
Fabulous Festive Feasts	2
Dates For Your Diary	2

### Positive Covid-19 Results

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, please contact school on [H2190@taw.org.uk](mailto:H2190@taw.org.uk)

Please do not use this email address for any other reason.

If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, you do not need to contact school. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. **Thank you.**



### STAR Programme

Last week, year 6 have participated in the STAR program learning about alcohol and drug awareness. They experienced the impact of alcohol by wearing 'beer-goggles'! While the lack of coordination was very entertaining, they explored some serious messages and were extremely reflective.



If you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school



Apply  
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### Starting school?

Closing date for applications:  
**15 January 2021**

[www.telford.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.telford.gov.uk/admissions)

DATE	EVENT
Monday 4th January	Apley Wood PD day
Tuesday 5th January	Pupils Return To School
Wednesday 13th January	Year 4 1st Swimming Lesson
Wednesday 13th January	Year 5 1st Swimming Lesson



Year 2, 3, 5 and 6 enjoyed their Christmas lunches on Tuesday and Thursday this week. It has been a week of parties and festive celebrations, and has been a thoroughly enjoyable way to end the term. Happy holidays!

