



Dear parents: November 5th started a cold clear day. We were planning a surprise for later in the day to let off some rockets so every child could enjoy the wonder of fireworks. Then at around 8.40am I got another surprise our first confirmed case of Covid-19 in Year 6. I had carefully prepared for this but still it is a challenge and not one anyone would welcome. Numbers need to be rung, agencies informed and parents contacted. Staff need to be told to self isolate and some after school clubs cancelled. Thought needs to be given as to 'Contacts' and above all how to tell the children. I told Year 6 and they took it calmly but it is still a shock for them. Letters need to be sent out, texts sent out, different letters posted on the website and further consideration given around siblings. Test kits given out to vulnerable staff and administered. Then anomalies occur around contacts and absentees. Anomalies about advice given to parents via NHS track and trace and that NHS app that sends out all sorts of messages. By around 10.50 everything was in place and Year 6 and staff sent home. Thanks to the parents who responded so promptly. Not easy for children having to self-isolate for 14 days. Then normal day to day business kicks in and the rest of the children are blissfully unaware of what has been going on and that is how should be. Lessons to be learned as I am always reflective (Ofsted training -Even Better If). I always do this. Firstly government agencies DFE, Public Health and Hackney Education were excellent and responded right away. I operate to a set of Protocols I don't make things up, so I now share them with everyone on our website. I have almost memorised this document and it is crucial. I have told teachers and everyone to get their heads around page 5 and 'Definition of a case and contact'. It's really good!

Next I need to mention the curse of the Whats App groups. Every school in the country now has this issue. What started in 2009 as a great means for people to get in touch and organise socials, meetings and exchange information turned into something else that can at times be toxic. In times of a pandemic please be careful what you post as there are groups and sub groups and rumours and gossip and this is not helpful. I will always let you know calmly and truthfully what is really happening and what you need to know to help your family. Final point is that the case did not occur in school but like so many other cases in schools happened over half-term. Dalston had the most cases last week but please remember for 99.9% of people it is either asymptomatic or quite mild. After all this I decided that letting off rockets in the playground to celebrate Guy Fawkes Night was not one of my better ideas...hmm... maybe nearer Christmas as I am making lots of plans for it to be very special.

Pics of the week:

Ms Sylvia showing everyone where they can get their poppies to support the Royal British Legion and to remember and support our ex-forces personnel. ... parent happily buying some poppies and Tao Geoghegan a new sporting hero from Hackney. Born near me in Holloway schooled in Hackney and just won the Giro d'Italia in awful weather one of the toughest bike races ever. Great to watch towards ... lots of Arsenal fans in pictures this week.



School news ... next week

Wednesday - Remembrance Service 11am with 2 minutes silence. Poppies on sale until next Wednesday.

After school child care

After school care has now started and is well attended. No Art club next week. Creative vocals, choir and music making starts next week with Ms Dyer.



and finally ... when asked to display any talent you have at a party if asked to sing I can sing all of La Marseillaise French National Anthem or every verse of the original Fields of Athenry ..if asked to dance I say I can't but can do 24 - 32 and 42 style Tai Chi which is much more graceful and balletic ...if asked for a memory feat I can name every US President from Washington in 1789 through to yesterday there are 45 of them ... but I can never remember anything like the last few days in America. I have lived through 12 Presidents and this one is the most disturbing, his talk last night was concerning. Yet I have great faith in America and its constitution but Washington, Jefferson, Wilson, Roosevelt, Kennedy and the greatest Republican President (Lincoln yes he was a Republican) must be rolling in their graves we'll know by Sunday ... my book of the week The Greatest Day in History by Nicholas Best last week of the First World War through individual eyes it's superb...and then came Spanish Flu ... hope lockdown is going well ?? ..roads still seem busy.. November month of Holy Souls so remember and pray for loved ones and the dead in Vienna.