



## Weekly Update - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear All,

As you know, we have seen an increase in **COVID** cases across the school this week. We have been working with the local health protection team who assure us that this is very much reflective of the infection rates in the broader community. We are very grateful to all those who are testing regularly and responding quickly to any symptoms as this helps us to keep our community safe and our school open. We know that staying at home with COVID, for any length of time, remains extremely difficult and can feel isolating. **Please do reach out if you need any support at all** – we are here to help in any way that we can and look forward to seeing you soon.

Our staff continue to be significantly impacted by COVID and other seasonal illnesses and I would like to **thank each of my colleagues** for working so flexibly and energetically to keep our school running smoothly. Go Team Penpol!



You may remember that, in September, we joined **Challenge Partners**, a national network for collaboration in schools. From February 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, we look forward to welcoming a team of school leaders from across the country to carry out our first Challenge Partners peer review. It is through this outward-facing accountability that we can confidently provide the best possible opportunities to your children. Our visiting reviewers will be observing COVID guidance at all times and we look forward to updating you on how it goes.

Despite the many COVID-related challenges of late, our teaching team have been working hard to further refine our exciting **curriculum**. In particular, we have identified **key concepts** which pupils revisit throughout their journey here at Penpol. This will support children to deepen their subject-specific knowledge and skills whilst remaining **curious, creative and courageous** as learners. Thank you to all involved in this exciting piece of work. We look forward to sharing our revised **curriculum overviews** with you soon. In the meantime, you can read more about our curriculum here: <https://www.penpolschool.co.uk/curriculum/>.



We continue to learn of problems at home with messaging apps such as **Whatsapp**. With a minimum age limit of 16, Whatsapp is unsafe for primary-aged children to use as there is no way to filter harmful or abusive content from being received. If your child is accessing any devices or apps at home, it is important to hold open and regular conversations together. It is always worth remembering that **while children are often the technology experts at home, parents and guardians will always be the safety experts**. As ever, if you would like any support or advice regarding technology or keeping your child safe online, please do not hesitate to ask.

Finally, thank you all for supporting our non-uniform day today to help raise funds for lifesaving treatment for Nicolette Baker (<https://bit.ly/3zVD7V7>). Together, you raised a fantastic £385!

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

Best wishes,

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Don't forget:  
next Monday  
**24<sup>th</sup> January** is  
an INSET day –  
**school will be  
closed to pupils.**



Forward Together

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“Penpol pupils are **curious, creative and courageous** learners. Our school community believes in **authenticity** as the foundations of **deep-rooted** learning. Through our **rich and relevant** curriculum, we nurture **community-minded, forward-facing** international citizens of the future.”