

## Heelands School Spring Newsletter 2022



Dear Parents and carers,

Normally in the Spring newsletter I begin by saying welcome to the new year but so far it all feels very much like the old year, particularly where Covid is concerned. Like most schools, our biggest problem this term has been fighting the ever-growing number of Covid infections in both children and staff and trying to limit the outbreaks as much as possible. Regular testing to identify any positive cases is the only way to do this so many thanks to those parents who have been testing their child at home and informing us of their results. We appreciate it is not easy sometimes but it's a vital part of keeping everyone safe and of keeping the school open. Unfortunately:

- In Giraffes class we have **double** the number of cases that could close the class yet only half of Giraffes pupils said their parents had tested them yesterday morning
- Last Monday, parents tested 6 children at school and 2 of them were positive
- Since January 10<sup>th</sup> I have reported 18 positive cases to Public Health which is 23%, almost a quarter of our pupils

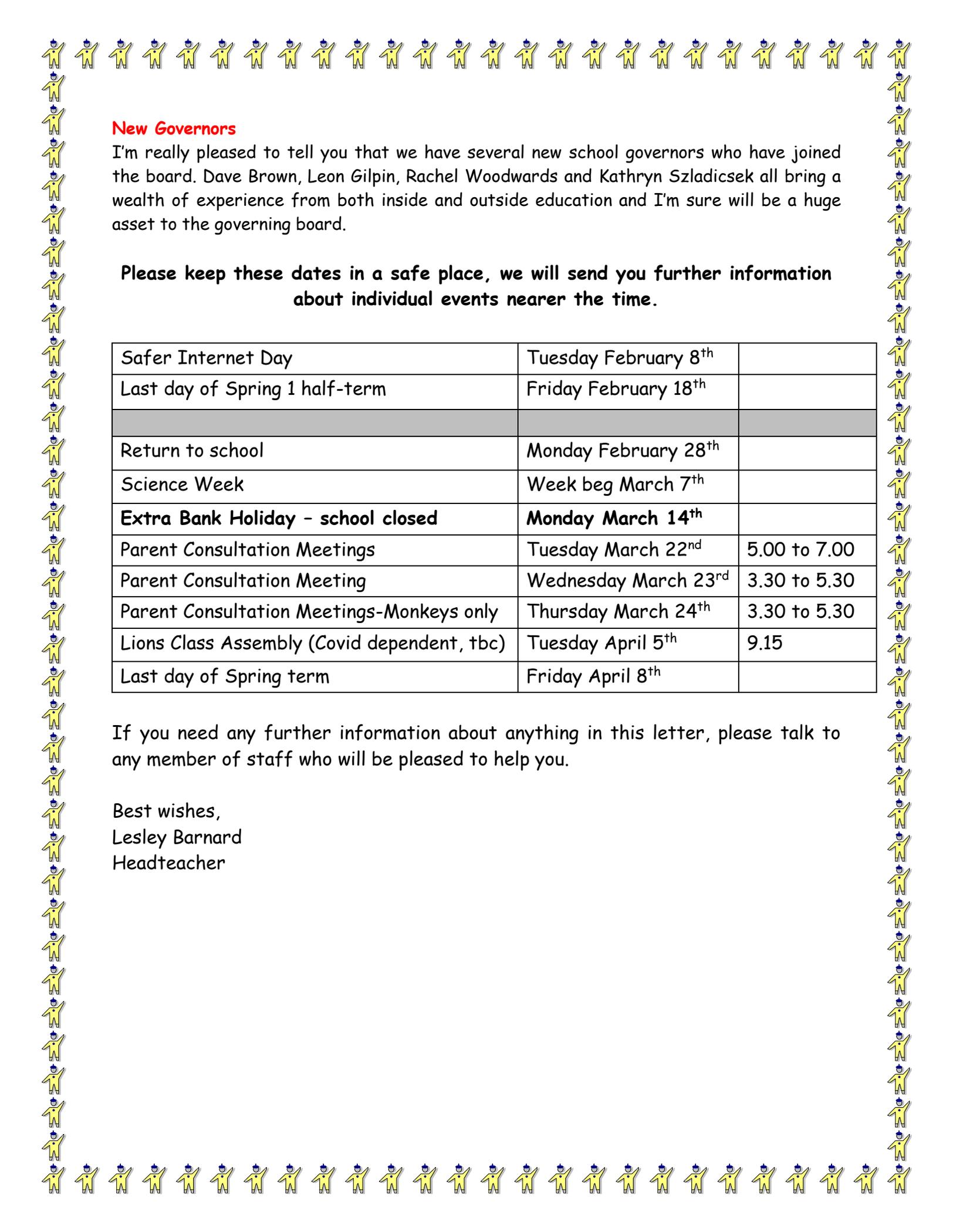
If you do not have a test at home, we will provide one for you to use on your child when you arrive at school. Most children have no symptoms so please don't assume that your child is Covid-free, even if they are their usual bouncy selves they could still be able to infect other children, staff and the wider community. Please test on Mondays and Thursdays as a minimum and if your child is in Giraffes more often would be very helpful.

### **Extra Bank Holiday!**

Schools have been asked to arrange an extra Bank Holiday Day for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as one of the official bank holiday dates falls within our half term week. The day can be chosen at any time so, in agreement with the new Headteacher at Bradwell Village School, Sashi Silva, we've chosen **Monday March 14<sup>th</sup>**. This will give everyone a long weekend in the middle of a long half-term.

### **Values**

Giraffes were the hands-down winners of our last Value, which was Respect - very well done to them! Our new Value for this half-term is Cooperation.



### New Governors

I'm really pleased to tell you that we have several new school governors who have joined the board. Dave Brown, Leon Gilpin, Rachel Woodward and Kathryn Szladicsek all bring a wealth of experience from both inside and outside education and I'm sure will be a huge asset to the governing board.

**Please keep these dates in a safe place, we will send you further information about individual events nearer the time.**

Safer Internet Day	Tuesday February 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Last day of Spring 1 half-term	Friday February 18 <sup>th</sup>	
Return to school	Monday February 28 <sup>th</sup>	
Science Week	Week beg March 7 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Extra Bank Holiday - school closed</b>	<b>Monday March 14<sup>th</sup></b>	
Parent Consultation Meetings	Tuesday March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5.00 to 7.00
Parent Consultation Meeting	Wednesday March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3.30 to 5.30
Parent Consultation Meetings-Monkeys only	Thursday March 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.30 to 5.30
Lions Class Assembly (Covid dependent, tbc)	Tuesday April 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.15
Last day of Spring term	Friday April 8 <sup>th</sup>	

If you need any further information about anything in this letter, please talk to any member of staff who will be pleased to help you.

Best wishes,  
Lesley Barnard  
Headteacher