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# Blackminster Middle School

## School Bulletin

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Dear parents and carers,

It seems like a very long time ago that we came back to school in September, but half term is almost upon us. School will be closed from Monday 26th October and (unless we are told otherwise by the government) we will reopen on Monday 2nd November, when it will be Week A of the timetable.

In the meantime, I have some news and updates to share with you.

### Sharing lifts to school.

We've been asked to draw parents' and carers' attention to government guidance on lift-sharing to school. Guidance clearly states 'you should try not to share a vehicle with those outside your household or support bubble'. If you do need to do this, the UK Government advises people to:

- share the transport with the same people each time
- keep to small groups of people at any one time
- open windows for ventilation
- travel side by side or behind other people, rather than facing them, where seating arrangements allow
- face away from each other
- consider seating arrangements to maximise distance between people in the vehicle
- ask the passengers to wear a face covering if they are over 11 years old and remember your own too.

### Self-isolation reminder

We'd like to remind families that if anyone in the household develops COVID-19 symptoms all their household including all children must self-isolate until a test result is received.

- A negative result means children can return to school (unless they have been identified as a close contact of someone else)
- A positive test result means children must self-isolate at home for 14 days from the onset of symptoms or 14 days from the test date if the parent was asymptomatic

### Show My Homework

Our online homework platform is the means by which homework is set for all children, and the means by which work is shared for children who may be isolating due to coronavirus. Homework appears in green, and

### Dates for your diary

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020 - Halloween Dress-up/Non-Uniform day

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Half Term

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November – PDD Day, Closed to students

work for children isolating at home appears in pink boxes. All students should now be able to access the system - please contact your child's form tutor if there are problems.

### **Halloween events**

Halloween at Blackminster is normally a time for lots of spooky fun.

We can't have our usual Halloween disco, but lots of fun has been planned for next week.

We will be selling Halloween goodies in the hall, every day. Children need to bring the right money as change can't be given. Items range from 50p to £1:50 - all profits go to school fund.

We will be having a pumpkin competition - details from Mr Downing or Mrs Baldwin. All entrants receive 50 e-praise points for taking part!

There will also be a bird-cage decorating competition - buy a black bird cage from us for 50p and decorate it. Again - 50 e-praise points for every entrant.

Finally - we will have a non-uniform/fancy dress day on Thursday 22nd October. Students can come in their own choice of clothes or a Halloween-themed outfit (remember that it'll need to be suitable for lessons!). This will cost £1 via Parent Pay or buy a pass for 10 e-praise points.

Students have received more details about all of these from their tutors.

### **Open Evening**

We've been unable to have our usual Open Evening due to coronavirus restrictions, but we have made a "virtual open evening" video that is available on our Facebook page. If you know of families who might be interested in a place at Blackminster for their child, please do draw it to their attention.

I hope you have a restful half term week.

Kind regards,



Linda McQuone

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