



Parent Link

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Issue 1
18th September
2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

An official warm welcome to new children and their families to the school, and of course welcome back to all our other children and families; this return in particular feels special – I'll leave the department leads to express that overleaf.

Our return to school has inevitably been dominated by issues reflected on a national scale around the virus and testing. I have spoken to many of you, and understand your frustrations if and when your child has either developed a temperature or been coughing persistently either in class or at home. We are well aware that in the vast majority of cases this is some other virus that affects us in a similar way to Covid 19, but nevertheless we are bound by the guidance and directives issued to us by the Department of Education and Public Health England. That means, regardless of how long symptoms were present, and indeed if they have since disappeared, a child cannot return to school until a test is carried out and returned as negative. I am fully aware of how difficult it is to get a test and how disruptive and inconvenient this is to your lives. We have a small number of home tests which at the time of writing we have now sent home with those pupils who have shown symptoms; we will be ordering more. In any scenario it does take time to return the test result and I know that in many cases this will be disruptive and appear unnecessary. However, the risk is there, it is real and if Covid does find its way into the school community we must do everything we can to prevent its spread. I humbly ask you all to adhere to the measures that we need to take in order that we play our part in a global struggle against the pandemic. I am sorry to be focusing on this at the start of the year, and I hope for us to celebrate some great learning achievements as we progress – this will be dependent on us working together to follow the rules and keeping the virus at bay.

I'll reattach the guidance we sent out previously with this newsletter which sets out the protocol we must follow and the timescales involved.

A minor modification to our current practice is that we are unable to maintain keeping everyone informed when a child within the class has symptoms, simply because to date there have been over 10 cases. I will of course inform everyone if there is a positive case within the school. On that theme, there was a confirmed case at The Downley School earlier this week – please be aware this has been dealt with and isolated, and that none of our pupils have had even any remote contact with the affected case (including the class we have located on their site). My best wishes for a healthy and happy (and sunny) weekend.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Autumn Term 2020 dates

Thursday 3rd September – Friday 23rd October 2020
Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2020

Other dates for Parents:

Thursday 24th September – 9.15am – 10.30am
Welcome to Parents and meet the Therapists –
Downley parents – **via Zoom**
W/C 28th September – Parent Forum to include RSE
consultation – *details to follow*
W/C 2nd November – Parent Forum – Cressex –
details to follow
Tuesday 24th November – 9.15 – 10.30am – puberty
workshop – *details to follow*
W/C 7th December – Parent Forum – Cressex –
details to follow

Opal Class – The Great Wall of China

This week, Opal class have been learning all about the Great Wall of China. We did some role play, showing the first emperor of China and his army getting civilians and criminals to build the 3000 mile long wall!



Gemstones Department

In Opal class, we have been learning about global warming. After his work, Zyaan drew a shocked picture of himself next to the Earth to show how concerned he was. Zyaan is now on a mission to think of ways to help our planet, one job is turning the lights off when we go out to play.



Woodland Department

Snowdrop Class have settled well, making friends and most of them are getting used to a new school setting. We have enjoyed some lovely swimming sessions and water play. The children are enjoying their Good Morning session and already finding their pictures on the Grid 3 and asking for bubbles.



News from around the school

Rainbow

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to Rainbow this term, this has included some new children to the department who have settled in well. We are so proud with how they have all transitioned back into school life and into the different classes. As you may be aware we have been carefully planning the curriculum and activities to support children with their transition back into school. This half term our topic is 'all about me' and is centred around ourselves, our bodies, our emotions and our families. There have been many incredible wow moments from the term already from each class particularly in terms of communication. I hope you have a wonderful weekend, Hannah

Coppice

Welcome back. It has been lovely seeing the children back in school and already settling back into the daily routines. Squirrel and Deer class have started to explore the topic of Potions and have had fun exploring the story of the Magic Porridge Pot (It got very messy!). Falcon and Red Kite have started to explore the Harry Potter series - I saw some amazing Snitches being made ahead of an upcoming Quiditch match!

Salma

Little Wings

Welcome to a new school year in Little Wings! Huge congratulations to all the new starters who have settled so quickly into school routines and are already building relationships with peers and staff. A big well done also, to all the returning students who have coped incredibly well returning to school after an extended period away. It is such a joy to see our classrooms full of activity and creativity again. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing restrictions on social gatherings, we won't be hosting a stay and play this term. We are also unable to host a Little Wings get-together for new parents, but we hope to be able to facilitate this in the future. As face-to-face contact with parents is somewhat limited this term, we encourage you all to communicate as much as possible with the class teams via Dojo or over the phone. We love to hear about your successes, and consistency across home and school is key. We look forward to starting / continuing your child's journey with us this year. Claire

Treetops

It has been great to welcome back the students and see how happy they have been. Considering the amount of school some of them have missed they have coped very well with being back. In Forest School Kestrel class enjoyed going to Denham Country Park and Hawk class went to Downley Common. Owl class have been enjoying their cooking sessions and Eagle have been working on time in maths. Have a good weekend. David

Woodlands

I am feeling incredibly proud of how well the pupils are settling back into all of the school routines and how positively they are engaging with a wide range of learning activities and experiences. Some highlights of this week:

A pupil in The Den Class has been working on her reaching and releasing skills, and has been able to place clothes into a mini washing machine.

Meadow Class showed interest in exploring paints and sticks as part of their 'Stickman' themed activities.

A pupil in Forest Class did some very speedy walking in her 'walker' when she saw some of the Gemstone Department pupils on the playground.

A pupil in Orchard Class remembered how to get herself into the hydrotherapy pool. Amanda

Gemstones

It has been great to see the children return to school. It is always a joy to watch the children socialising in the playground but even more so now after such a long time at home.

The class groups are settling into new routines and there is a positive and enthusiastic atmosphere towards our learning. We are having to look for new ways of doing things in this new normal but we are confident that we can make this term a great one. Sarah



Welcome to Chiltern Wood School

&

Meet the Health and Therapy Team virtual coffee morning

At the Cressex site
Tuesday 15th September at 9:15am till 10:30am

or

At the Downley site
Thursday 24th September at 9:15 to 10:30 am

Come and virtually meet other parents and the therapists at school and hear about what we do.

**Zoom invite to follow in September**

Kestrel Class – Visit to Denham Country Park



Yellow class' new planter



A request from Rainbow Department



If anyone has any scooters, balls or other outside toys they no longer want, Please can these be donated to Rainbow Department.

