



Parent Link

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Issue 6
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2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now just two weeks away from the end of term. We are so proud of the children and young people at our school, and the progress they have made during this term. Whilst we are all focused on ensuring the children stay at the centre of the work we do, I'd like to pay tribute to the staff who have worked so hard to make this happen, against a backdrop of uncertainty and challenge. I have spent a lot of the past few weeks visiting classes seeing lessons, and it has been an extremely positive experience. Staff continue to overcome the concerns they have for the health and safety of themselves and their families in order to ensure that we have stayed open every day this term (not including specific classes or individuals who have been asked to stay at home following advice from Public Health England). I am sure you are well aware from local and national media that other schools have not managed this. We recognise how important education is to the children at the school, and I am very proud of our staff in doing such an excellent job in this difficult period. We are by no means out of the woods yet, but we can certainly be happy with our efforts so far.

This time of year brings out the charity in us, and in that vein can I make you aware of Christmas Jumper Day as noted below, and the One Can Trust overleaf. Christmas will have a different feel this year, but the constant will be the care and attention all the children receive in these last couple of weeks.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Autumn Term 2020 dates

Monday 2nd November – Friday 18th December 2020

Spring Term 2021 dates

Wednesday 6th January 2021 – Friday 12th February 2021

Please note Monday and Tuesday 4th and 5th January are INSET days



Annette McDonnell has been a physio assistant for about 30 years working with the various incarnations of our school. She was originally at Park Crescent which joined Vinio House, then Maplewood and currently Chiltern Wood School. She has worked alongside the class teams and is very highly thought of by us all. She has supported hydrotherapy and dry land physio for a few generations of our children! We will miss her.



Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December 2020
£2 donation via their website
(NO CASH to school please)

Can I please ask once again for all parents to take care driving in to either of our sites. I am sad to say we do have fairly regular complaints from parents of The Downley School and residents of Verney Avenue about vehicles coming on to our site. Your support is much appreciated.

News from Your Parent Ambassador

This week you will have received a survey from our Parent Ambassador either via e-mail or in your child/young person's bag. By completing this survey, you will be helping to shape the work of the Parent Ambassador and the parent training courses or workshops that will be run over the coming Spring and Summer terms. Please complete the survey online or return the paper copy by the end of the day on Monday 14th December. Thank you, Liz

News from around the school

Rainbow

Around the building we have had some updates to our environment. This has included two new sets of fencing which has enabled a separate entrance to be formed for the OT room and some new fencing near Buttercup class. The children coped really well with the disruption whilst this work took place and in the long run these modifications will benefit the children by reducing disturbance when people access these spaces. We have added some final additions to the Rainbow sensory room which the children are enjoying using. I hope you all have a lovely weekend, Hannah

Coppice

Highlights from Coppice Department over the last few weeks include: Red Kite have been exploring how to become more independent with self-care by exploring hygiene products and how to use them. Falcon class have been learning about the importance of recycling by sorting objects into the correct categories to recycle. Squirrel class have been exploring different types of minibeasts through lots of sensory exploration. Deer class have said good bye to a friend from class who has moved to a new school. We have been talking about how this move makes us feel. With Christmas fast approaching... We will be having a Coppice Virtual Christmas celebration this year - We are planning on doing this Via Zoom on Tuesday 15th December at 1.45pm. Invites will be shared closer to the time. Salma

Little Wings

This half term the pupils in Little Wings have been enjoying a tea party role play scene in our playroom. It has been great to see the pupils begin to interact with each other and show real interest in including others in their play. Before we break up for Christmas the playroom will be updated to a workshop for Father Christmas' elves. Unfortunately, we won't be able to do our traditional visit from Santa this year, but rest assured staff are armed and ready with Christmas activities to make the last couple weeks of school as magical as always! Claire

Treetops

The last couple of weeks students have continued to do some fantastic work in the build up to Christmas. There continues to be lots of use of ICT including clicker 7, IPADS and communication books to help support learning. We are asking for some farm animals and baby clothes for some of the students if you have any at home that you no longer want. Have a good weekend. David

Woodlands

The pupils demonstrated lots of interest and high levels of engagement when taking part in the 'Wow Week' activities last week. The huge bubbles were a highlight. Many pupils smiled, laughed, looked or vocalised as they watched and/or touched the massive bubbles. Thank you to Kara's dad for making the giant bubble wands for us. Other activities across the department included sensory play with ice-cream, using white balloons and music to replicate a snowball fight and exploring an exciting range of textures, temperatures and objects in sensory trays. We hope you enjoyed seeing the photographs. Ian Bean's virtual visit was unfortunately cancelled. We will be rescheduling this soon. Amanda

Gemstones

The end of the first term is getting nearer. The topics are all rounding up and signs of Christmas are starting to appear in windows and classrooms. The Elf who has been isolating for 14 days is out and about causing havoc around Gemstones. A great opportunity for some independent writing.

We are all teaching in ventilated areas so it is becoming chilly in the classrooms. It might be useful for the children to have another named layer of clothing in school, a hoodie or a zip up top. Sarah

Woodland Department - Snowdrop class

The picture of friendship!



Gemstones Department – The Return of the Elf!



Donations for the One Can Trust

We are organising a collection for the **One Can Trust** before Christmas, to help families who are in need of food parcels over the Christmas period.

The one can trust are in need of:

- Fresh fruit & veg (especially carrots, broccoli, onions & bananas)
- Tinned Halal meat
- Tinned meat pies
- Tinned veg (especially green beans, mushrooms & potatoes)
- Vegetable stock cubes
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Size 6/7/8 nappies
- Loo rolls
- Toothbrushes
- Household items (eg. washing up liquid)
- Empty egg boxes

Any food contributions that you can make would be amazing. The cut off date for donations will be Wednesday, 16th of December. There will be a box in reception on both sites for any donations from staff or pupils or to be given to Orlea from Rainbow department. Thank you in advance for your donations. Orlea