



Parent Link

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Issue 9
29th January
2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you firstly to those parents who were able to attend the parents' forum yesterday. Your comments and support were, as ever, greatly appreciated. To summarise some of the points made and shared within that meeting:

- At this stage I have no news to share about opening more widely to all pupils. We continue to have two highly valid competing priorities – the need for children to be in school; the need to keep transmission low and protect members of the school community. These priorities do not impact on one other – a greater need in one does not lessen the other
- The hard work and support of parents has been overwhelming. We will get through this period by continuing to work closely together.
- We have had unconfirmed reports that special school staff are likely to be vaccinated in the same wave as health and social care workers. We are hopeful this means by the middle of February.
- If this is correct and does happen, the date of March 8th, as mentioned by the PM in the week, appears to be our best bet for when further reopening can happen. This is tentative at this stage and by no means confirmed.
- Please do contact the school – initially through your classes but via SLT too – if there is anything we can do to support further. This could range from technical support, resources which are at school but you need at home, resources we can make for you at home, 1:1 sessions through Zoom, and so on.
- We have our remote learning offer and a range of resources available via our website for you – please do take a look.
- We have a number of courses which Liz, our parent ambassador, is going to be running – details will be coming out via parentmail, on Facebook and on the website. We are keen to hear from you about what you might want to see with this type of support – ASD is on the horizon.
- There is a drive from the LA to update and improve the annual review process, which I welcome. We are keen to get parent views on how you find this, and we also want to enable you as parents to be really clear about what you should see happen within that process. This links clearly to having high quality EHCPs – more to follow on this in due course.

Thanks to those of you who have shared snow pictures from last weekend. It looks like we may get a further sprinkling over the weekend but hopefully nothing that will impact on school this time around.

Best wishes to you all,
Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Spring Term 2021 dates

Wednesday 6th January – Friday 12th February 2021
Monday 22nd February – Thursday 1st April 2021

Other dates for parents:

W / C Monday 8th February - Parents' evening
(virtual)

Snowdrop Class – Yusuf helping at home



Daisy Class – Eleanor building a snowman



Forest Class – Kavishaalee walking in the snow!



Buttercup Class – Talyn exploring the snow



News from around the school

Treetops

I hope you all managed to enjoy some of the snow last weekend and hope it did not cause too many issues. I am sure managing home learning continues to be a challenge but remember you are all doing a great job. Please do speak to your teams should you require further resources. Have a good weekend. David

Gemstones

One of the first things that I experienced at Chiltern wood was Gemstones Assembly in the hall, it made me smile and often cry happy tears. In September, due to the need for social distancing we took the assembly out into the playground, all sitting on chairs in the often freezing cold, now with most of the children at home we are running Assembly on zoom... It's different, but it still makes me smile and cry happy tears and I know that in those 20 minutes at the end of the week the children are enjoying seeing their peers and the adults are so very proud of all of them.

Thank you to everyone who is supporting Gemstones at the moment.

You are all stars of the week! Sarah

Rainbow

We have enjoyed seeing and hearing about the children exploring and experiencing the lovely snow at the weekend, thank you for the photographs and wow moments that were shared. These wow moments have extended to our zoom home learning sessions as well as to activities completed at home and in school. It has been brilliant to hear of how children are trying and tasting new foods, developing their communication and exchanges through intensive interaction and sharing a variety of sessions through zoom. My continued thanks to you all for your support you are providing. Have a wonderful weekend, Hannah

Coppice

Firstly, thank you all for engaging in remote learning- I have had the opportunity to drop into a Zoom session with each class in Coppice over the last week and it has been lovely to see the engagement in live sessions. Equally it has been really exciting for us to hear about the learning activities children are engaging in at home. A big thank you to you as parents for being so supportive in helping to ensure children can continue to access their learning. For those children that have been in school, I know the structure and routines are different, but I have seen some exciting work happening around the department. I hope you all managed to get out in the snow! Salma

You may be aware that the Little Wings Department Lead, Claire May, unexpectedly had her baby rather early just under 2 weeks ago. Baby Rosa has been in the neonatal unit but both mum and baby are now doing well. We all wish Claire the very best. I'll update you regarding who will be taking over as Little Wings lead before the half term break.

Woodland

I was delighted to receive a photograph of Kavishaalee and hear about her touching the snow while having a walk. The snow in an unusual surface to walk on, so Kavishaalee did extremely well to manage walking in it. I also enjoyed hearing from Agnieszka about how Yusuf has been helping at home with tasks like putting the washing in the machine. Stanley's responses to seeing familiar faces and hearing familiar voices were a joy to observe while he was taking part in a Zoom session. His mum used screen mirroring from her smartphone to enable Stanley to see the Zoom session on the TV screen. What a good idea! I was also impressed with the very helpful siblings who were excellent at helping with Story Massage during Hazel and Theresa's session on Wednesday afternoon. The pupils who are in school have been working hard on their individual targets. Amanda

Gemstones Department – Online Assembly



I wanted to say thank you to have everyone who bought in donations for the one can trust before Christmas. I was overwhelmed with how many donations we received. I counted up everything we were given and we received:

42 house hold items, 107 cans of food, 15 bags of fresh food, 6 Luxury items , 6 baby items and 12 bags of dried food.

It would have made such a difference to all the families who received food parcels around the Christmas period!

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