



Parent Link

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Issue 11
5th March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are all very much looking forward to seeing all the children back in school on Monday – we have updated our risk assessments and plans for the return, available through the website, and will be very pleased to see the school running more like normal.

As some of you will be aware, while we have been very fortunate to receive our first vaccination dose, we have had two members of staff (one from each site so not related) test positive in the past week, and whilst I am pleased to say at the moment symptoms were either non-existent or relatively mild, we need to continue to isolate the virus when we know it is present, and that has meant time away from school for some. Naturally in this case – which could occur to any of our classes for the foreseeable future – we will put distance learning in place of face to face education. I am as aware as anyone that this is not as beneficial as having the children in school.

Please note you are able to request tests for yourselves via home testing kits that the government is making available. Please follow

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff> to order.

There's a lot to look at in today's newsletter, including classes doing their best to make the most of World Book Day despite being remote. Please do look at the online safety newsletter at this time when we are all online for such long periods.

In addition to all the other news, I have a request from the brother of one of our pupils in Topaz class. He is conducting a study which looks at how the siblings of children with SEND play an important role in supporting their brother or sister. He has a short survey that he would like you to complete – link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeaTv8Om3zfNP8FUID5o7x0PSEtVC-7kymyscd-cSwrzjBHQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

On a different theme, we have a number of staff who are aiming to raise money to support the installation of hoists on our Downley site. The aim is to walk the circumference of the Isle of Wight in the summer. You can find out more from the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/theresa-howells-3>

On a related note, turning our attention to fundraising, we are **extremely** keen to find a new treasurer for the Friends of Chiltern Wood. If you are interested, please get in touch – thank you.

Best wishes for the weekend.

Bradley Taylor (Headteacher)

Spring Term 2021

Last Day of School Thursday 1st April 2021

Chiltern Wood School
Success through Wellbeing

Parent Forum

Focussing on the needs of your child

Join us on Zoom

On: Thursday 11th March
At: 10am
For Downley & Cressex

Details for Zoom will be sent via Parentmail nearer the time

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. The current situation
3. EHCP & Annual Review
4. Parents Events update
5. Parent Volunteers update
6. Any questions?

FEEL LIKE TOILET TRAINING YOUR CHILD IS LIKE CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN THEN COME ALONG TO THE COMMUNITY LEARNING DISABILITY NURSE'S

INTRODUCTION TO TOILET TRAINING WORKSHOP

ON WEDNESDAY 10TH MARCH
11AM - 12.30PM ON M5 TEAMS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND, PLEASE E-MAIL
LWEBBER@CHILTERNWOOD.BUCKS.SCH.UK
BY MONDAY 8TH

THIS WILL BE AN INFORMAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO MEET A MEMBER OF THE TEAM AND LEARN HOW BEST TO MEET THE INDIVIDUAL CONTINENCE NEEDS OF YOUR CHILD.



Online safety at home:

parents and carers newsletter



March 2021

With the majority of children having spent time learning from home, they have been getting used to spending more time online working, playing games or watching videos. Technology is hugely valuable for education, as well as a way to keep in touch with friends and family. However it's important we all consider how we can support children's ongoing online safety. Here's some information about what your child may enjoy online and what you can do to help keep them safer:

Sharing pictures

Using devices like phones and tablets to share pictures and videos can be a great way for children to have fun and stay in touch with friends and family. It's really important your child knows what's ok to share online and what they should check with you first.

Read [younger children sharing pictures or videos online](#) for more information on the risks and how to support safer sharing.

Watching videos

Children love to watch videos and YouTube is always a firm favourite! But sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them.

[YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this on [YouTube: what parents need to know](#).

Remember, your children should be supervised at all times when online.

More information?

Thinkuknow is the education programme from the National Crime Agency's Child Protection Command CEOP (NCA-CEOP) whose aim is to protect children and young people from sexual abuse online.

For more information, advice and guidance, visit their [parents website](#) and download their [home activity worksheets](#) for fun, online safety activities to do with your family.

Steps you can take to help keep your child safer online

Parental controls: Parental controls have been designed to help you manage your child's online activities. There are various types, some of which are free but others which can be bought. However, nothing is totally fool proof so this shouldn't replace the support and guidance that you give your child to help keep them safer. For more information and step by step instructions on setting up parental controls, visit [Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#).

Supervise their online activity: Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as the living room or kitchen, where an adult is able to supervise. Primary-age children should not access the internet in private spaces alone, such as in a bedroom or bathroom.

Explore together and chat little and often: Ask your child to show you their favourite apps, games and sites and encourage them to teach you how to use these. Ask them if anything ever worries them online. Make sure they know they won't be in trouble and can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried, sad or scared.

News from around the school

Treetops

World Book Day was on Thursday and many of the classes have enjoyed different stories this week both in class and on Zoom. Thank you for your continued engagement with our home learning activities and encouraging your children to join the Zoom sessions. We are all very excited to be able to have all the students back in on Monday. Have a good weekend. David

Gemstones

We are all looking forward to welcoming the children back into Gemstones on Monday.

We know some will burst through the doors excitedly and some will need some encouragement and reassurance to come through the doors. We hope that once we have normal routines established and the children see the exciting plans we have for the rest of term, any worries will melt away. Science week is approaching ! see further details from Betha. Thank you to all for your support during these last few weeks. Sarah

Rainbow

We are so excited to be welcoming all of the children back into school next week! We know for some it has been a long time since they were last in class and our focus will be settling all children back into their classes with their peers. Please could you remember to send in PE kits, coats and wellington boots. We will be making the most of our outdoor spaces! My continued thanks to you all for all the support you have given over these last few weeks. Have a wonderful weekend, take care, Hannah G.

Coppice

It has been lovely to see all the children engaged in various activities based around World Book Day this week. I hope you have all managed to grab a book and do some reading this week. I have even spotted some dressing up of book characters around the department!

I know we are all feeling anxious and excited ahead of the full time return to school next week but hopefully this is a big step back to some form of normalness. Please do keep communicating with your class teams about any questions you may have in regard to full time return. Once again. thank you so much for all the time and support you have all put into home learning. Salma

Woodland

Some highlights of the last fortnight include Mehreen learning to pull herself up to standing from sitting on a bench. She has been highly motivated to investigate the wooden exploration board while standing. Ivana has been enjoying her individual Zoom sessions and her mum managed to photograph Ivana moving her fingers as Amy sang a familiar song. We are very much looking forward to welcoming the pupils back into school on Monday. Woodland Department will be celebrating World Book Day throughout the whole of next week. Classes will plan sensory stories, book sharing sessions and possibly some creative activities linked to books. Amanda

Little Wings

Thank you to all of you for your persistence with engaging with home learning. It has been great to hear about the lovely interactions had over Zoom and the progress made by pupils in home learning and your part in this has been invaluable. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to school next week. We are sad to say goodbye to Dianke who has been working in Dragonfly class and I would like to welcome Olivia to the department who will be taking over from her. Hannah H

Science Week 2021 – Innovating for the future

In Gemstones we are celebrating Science week from the 8th – 19th March. The national theme this year is, 'Innovating for the future'. We are going to take part in lots of fun, practical science investigations and think about invention that could help us in the future. I would love to hear what people think are the ten most important science inventions ever. Do you think it was the wheel, the World Wide Web, electricity or even the Corona virus vaccine? I would love to hear from parents, staff and children.



Pinpoint and Max Card

Are you registered on Pinpoint, Buckinghamshire Council's Disabled Children Register?

Pinpoint allows BCC to gather information about local children and young people with SEND aged 0 to 19. This helps BCC to plan and improve local support and services for children and young people with SEND and their families.

By signing up you can then access the Max Card, which gives families with a child with additional needs discounted and sometimes free admission to venues across the UK.

To find out more:
<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/send/disabled-children-register-and-max-card/>

World Book Day



Well done to Mehreen for learning to pull herself up from a sitting to a standing position!