



Dear Parents and Carers,

A continued thank you for your support regarding the ongoing issues with COVID. The increase in cases in school continues to affect attendance of both staff and pupils. We continue to have contact with and follow the guidance given to us by the UK Health Security Agency. In school the staff have shown real resilience working together to ensure the best possible education for the pupils and we hope that everyone at home is able to feel better soon so that they can come back and join us.

I have been focusing very much on building community links over the last fortnight as I am keen for our school to be an important part of the local communities in both Cressex and Downley. It has been wonderful to meet with County Councillors, Parish Councillors and the Headteachers from both The Downley School and Chepping View Primary Academy.

Online meetings seem to have taken up a lot of my time this week, so to keep me focused on what really matters I am trying to spend time with the pupils, when allowed to do so - respecting bubbles. Some of my highlights have been:

- Watching some of the Woodland pupils swimming
- Amy and DJ's drawings and story work in Emerald Class
- Hawk Class's posters that are up in my Cressex office showing what they like and don't like
- Snowdrop Class's colourful paintings, that are up in my Downley office

I continue to be impressed by our amazing staff and really enjoyed Geri (OT) updating some of us on the development of the Body Awareness Programme. I hope some parents were able to attend the Sensory Workshop she ran with Liz earlier this week, I have had some good feedback already on this.

It has been wonderful to meet a few more parents. Please do stop and introduce yourself if you see me around.

*Rachel Chapman*



if a child has a medical appointment during school time, please can you provide evidence for our records. Parents can also show messages from NHS portal as we are aware that everything tends to be electronic.



It's always congested around school drop off and pick times and we try our best to have a workable system to keep the flow of traffic moving. May we remind all parents to abide by the code of conduct when on the premises, including the car park.

If you need any help at busy times, please call the office who will assist you. Thank you!

## Calendar dates

TERM STARTS Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> February – Parents Evening

HALF TERM Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February

# News from around the school

## Rainbow

As you are well aware for the last few weeks our department has been in a bubble. We have had a number of cases which have impacted both children and the team. For those who are still unwell or recovering we wish you well. It has been a tricky time to stabilise our routines and classes for the children, this could not have been possible without your continued support. Thank you for all you have done to help us. In lighter news it has been wonderful to see how our children have adjusted. Wow moments continue to be seen within school with recent ones including trying new tastes, becoming more involved in different experiences and some beautiful communication. Have a lovely weekend, Hannah

## Little Wings

Last newsletter I updated parents regarding a single case of Covid we had in the department. Unfortunately, since then we have had many positive test results affecting both staff and pupils in every class in Little Wings. This has created significant staffing shortages and, in some cases, caused classes to close. Please rest assured closing a class is never an option we take lightly, and only done when we have exhausted all options. We fully understand the impact changes to routine can have on our pupils and we thank you for your continued support in this matter. We also thank you for the kind wishes you have sent to those not feeling well. If there's anything further we can do to support those learning from home please do let us know. Claire

## Coppice

A huge well done to all the children for managing the mayhem of bubbles and changes as a result of them. I know it's not easy but all your support with the ongoing changes as a result have helped the children cope so well, so thank you!

A few highlights from the department include: Deer class making aeroplanes and hot air balloons as part of the transport topic. Squirrel class have been working on their turn taking games.

Falcon class have been working on following instruction to make jam tarts and Red Kite class have been learning about how to look after the environment around us! Salma

## Treetops

Treetops classes have been continuing to all show good progress. Eagle class have been working hard in their cooking sessions, Kestrel and Owl class have been enjoying developing their gross motor skills in PE. Hawk class have been enjoying developing their cooking skills making lasagne, pizza and pasta bake. Reminder, Hawk class are continuing to run community cafe on Thursdays, please send 50p in so your son/daughter can buy a cake. Thank you and have a good weekend. David

## Gemstones

There has been a definite Julia Donaldson theme to lessons in Gemstones this week.

Sapphire have been busy making Gruffalo crumble, Opal have been reading Room on a Broom and had to help the witch sort her 2d shapes into a spell to find the witches hat. Emerald class have been looking at the sphere fearing teacher in a David Walliams book. The Worlds Worst Teachers and Ruby class have started to look at Eric Carle books, comparing The Very Hungry caterpillar with The Tiny Seed.

It has been lovely to see some of Topaz children and staff back in school today, after a time of online learning.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone back when they are feeling better. Sarah

## Woodlands

During this gloomy January, our classrooms have been filled with colourful activities to tie in with our 'Colours and Textures' topic. Meadow Class have been experiencing a rainbow themed sensory story with lights in their little sensory room, Snowdrop Class have been using individual communication grids to support communication in a wide range of sessions, Forest Class have been getting messy and making marks with coloured and textured paints, Orchard Class have been responding to a medley of songs about colours and massage strokes during their story massage session, and The Den Class have been using their senses to explore a range of yellow fruit during their Food Technology sessions. Helen and Theresa have made some super colour tents to use with pupils who have Visual Impairments. We are looking forward to receiving some training after school on Tuesday from Gwyn McCormack who set up the Positive Eye website and Positive Looking resources to support pupils who have Visual Impairments. Amanda

## Health and Therapies

The therapists have been busy meeting with teachers in Woodland over the past couple of weeks to set meaningful and functional targets for the pupils. Dennika's target for this term is to become more independent with her snack making skills - she is bringing us toast in the Therapies office with her new basket! Amazing work Dennika!

## **Red Kite class exploring their topic – Lights, Camera, Action**



## Update from our Parent Ambassador

Hi everyone,

Just to let you know that all our parent events up until half term will be online (due to COVID restrictions). We will reassess at half term and see if we can bring things back in person as soon as we can. I am aware that some of our parents prefer in person events.

If you have any ideas or thoughts about training or workshops that you would be interested in attending, please do e-mail me on [lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk) and I'll see what I can do! Liz



### Sensory Workshop

On Tuesday 25th January from 9.30-11am  
Venue: TBC  
Run by Geri Pinnock, OT

Every minute of every day a child's brain is flooded with all the different senses they experience. These are often pleasurable, but for many they can be overwhelming and cause an emotional reaction like anger or fear.

Come along to our workshop to find out more about Sensory Processing and how you can help and support your child with this.

### Asian Families Coffee Morning

All parents are welcome!

Date: Tuesday 1st Feb 2022  
From: 9.15 - 10.30am  
Venue: Downley School Hall



### How to use ERIC to help your child with toileting

On: Friday 11th Feb 2022  
From: 10-11am on MS Teams  
With Helen Watts, School Nurse

During the session, Helen will show you ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity's website, which has excellent resources to help you with toilet training your child and supporting them to become more independent.

Places are limited. To book a place, please e-mail: [lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:lwebber@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk)

### Teen Life

Starting on Tuesdays from the 1st March for 6 weeks  
from 9.30-11.30am online  
Facilitated by Sam Nuttall (Teacher) & Rowena White (SALT)

A six-session programme from the National Autistic Society for parents/carers of autistic young people, aged 10 to 16 years, bringing parents together to share information, experiences and ideas covering a range of topics including:

- understanding autism in teenagers
- self-esteem and spending time with other people
- stress and anxiety
- understanding your diagnosis
- puberty and independence
- education and planning for the future.

Spaces are limited. If you are interested in attending then please e-mail: [wtaylor@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:wtaylor@chilternwood.bucks.sch.uk) by 31st January 2022