

Chetwynde Newsletter



Chetwynde
School

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope that you and your families are all well and coping with the lockdown. Recently, we have been busy organising and co-ordinating the childcare hubs and free school meal provisions for a number of local schools. I have worked closely with the Head Teachers of St. Pius X, Vickerstown and St. Georges School. I am proud to say that Chetwynde has had a hand in supporting others, by providing childcare for Keyworker and vulnerable children in these challenging circumstances. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of my hardworking, dedicated staff volunteers, which have given up their time and worked throughout their holidays to keep Chetwynde open. I would also like to thank all of our Keyworker parents for their valuable contributions in our time of need. You are all doing a fantastic job!

Following the Prime Minister's statement on Sunday night, it was mentioned that there MAY be a phased reopening of schools for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 from the 1st of June. We are still awaiting details of how this will work in schools. We will be seeking advice from a number of different sources, but I want to make it clear that the safety of the Chetwynde Community is my number one priority. These are anxious times for all of us. As you know, my three daughters all attend Chetwynde, and I will only open the school to larger numbers of staff and pupils if it is safe to do so. I will do everything I can to keep us all as safe as possible. In the following days, we will be sending out a survey to help us gauge parental feelings about your children returning to school, which will help inform our planning. We await further details from the government, and I will update you when we have more information.

I want to thank all parents, for your perseverance and creativity while homeschooling your children. I hope that you are finding the work we are sending home manageable. I would also like to thank my teachers and teaching assistants for developing the remote learning provision under challenging conditions. While it is important that students try their best to keep up, we understand that every

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family's situation is different - we are here to support each child and teachers are available via Teams to chat and provide reassurance and help families to plan learning appropriately for their circumstance. I know how difficult it is to try to balance your home life, work from home and home educate. My wife and I are both teachers, and we have struggled - do what you can, but be in touch if you need support. The work shared on the Primary Facebook page, and Chet Chat has been fantastic and has made me smile as it captures what our school community is all about - pulling together. Please will you thank your children for their wonderful work? Our website also has information about how to cope with homeschooling and links to wellbeing, including organisations who can help.

Our plans for the next two weeks are to carry on providing vital childcare for Keyworker and vulnerable children. We will continue to keep you updated with information through our Facebook pages, website and Jotter.

Take care and stay safe.

Mr Jefferson