



Cliddesden Primary School
Headteacher's Newsletter
Spring Term Issue 10
1 April 2021

Dear parents and members of the school community

I would like to take this opportunity at the end of term, to thank you all for your support and to wish you a very happy Easter break. This has truly been a term of mixed experience - of innovation, challenge and most significantly, one of strong partnership between school and parents. We know how hard it was for parents to juggle the demands of working and being both teacher and parent at home; likewise, for staff in school who have needed to do the normal things in a different way, as well as do new things, it has been a demanding time for all. That is why it is now so fantastic to have all our children back in school and engaging with friends in person once again. After Easter, we will look forward to the summer term and all it has to offer.

I do not know yet whether any of the restrictions that we have had to put in place at school will be lifted. We will have to await guidance from the DfE. There will though, with the warmer weather, be more opportunities to be outside and I am hopeful that we will be able to resume some school educational visits. We have booked residential trips for our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils for the next academic year and hope they can go ahead. More details of these will be provided in September.

While things are relaxing in the country I must remind parents that safety measures are still in place. Staggered starts and finishes to the day will continue until further notice as will the requirement to wear a face mask on the school premises and in the car park. Please continue to social distance from other parents when collecting your children and if walking down to the village please do so in groups of no more than six.

I have been informed that parents are parking at the entrance to the village hall and walking up to school. I fully encourage walking but please be aware that this is not a public car park and although it is not my business to tell you whether you should park there or not, please be aware that if the local residents are not happy, they will inform me! Just be mindful of leaving safe access to the village Hall and the lane. I have had a couple of complaints regarding drivers on Woods Lane. Again, this is not my jurisdiction but I urge that parents drive carefully and give way where possible. May I also remind parents to allow pedestrians the right of way in the school car park when leaving.

Next term we will be resuming twice-weekly PE lessons. **These will start the second week back** and we will inform you which day in addition to a Friday your child's class will have PE. **During the first week back PE will be on the Friday only, so children come to school dressed in PE kit.**

Thank you to everyone who is logging their miles in support of Debs. She is now over half way through her challenge and doing well. Miss Haresign and some of the children made her a video to encourage her along, which she greatly appreciated. Meridian TV are planning to screen their report which will feature our school on today's Meridian News at 6:00pm.

Test and Trace over Easter

Earlier today we sent a letter regarding our Test and Trace procedures over Easter. Please ensure you read this carefully.

Summer Term Assessments and Reports

During the first full week of May, we will be holding Parent Consultation Meetings. These will be held using ParentCloud and details on appointment times and bookings will be sent out at the beginning of the new term. Written school reports will be sent out towards the end of term in July, as usual.

There will be no statutory tests this year for children in Year 1 (phonics screening) and for children in Year 2 and 6 (SATs). However, we will be carrying out our own summative assessments to measure progress and attainment. Although it will not be statutory, we will also be completing our Foundation Stage profile.

The children in Foundation Stage will be starting Year 1 in September. As parents are aware, we split our Year 1 pupils across Willow and Beech Classes. This year will be no different as logistically we have no choice due to class sizes and our pupil admission numbers. Once the children are in Year 2 they will remain together as they move up the school. This is common in most small schools and split classes can also occur in larger ones too.

The decision on which pupils will be in which class will not be made until towards the end of the summer term as there is still a lot of learning and development to go before then. Once we have made our decisions we will invite parents for another individual meeting. It is always our policy to do our very best to ensure each child has a friend in whichever class they go.

We very much hope to be able to ensure that our Year 6 pupils take part in our traditional leavers' activities. We have provisionally booked a day trip for them to The Gordon Brown Centre, have planned an Oak Class production and will order leavers' hoodies, all for the latter part of the term. Things may have to be different but we will adapt to ensure a good send off as a thoroughly deserved reward for all the Year 6 pupils for what they have given the school over the last seven years.

Finally, I would like to thank my staff for all their hard work over the last term. This week I reported to our school governors, the unforeseen and extraordinary challenges we have faced over the past year since the pandemic began. I am very fortunate to lead a team who not only trust me but also work with me and have the initiative to lead in their own right. Their commitment to the welfare and education of our children, while always commendable, has gone the extra mile over this difficult year.

I hope that all the school community, staff, pupils and parents have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and come back on the 19th April fully refreshed. Stay safe and well.

Kenneth Davies
Headteacher

To view class pages, find out about our curriculum, read all about our events in school, view your child's homework tasks, learn how to stay safe on the internet and much more please visit our school website www.cliddesden.hants.sch.uk

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