

COLDWALTHAM, ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

with Chuckleberries Pre School

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Learn, Discover, Achieve

Friday Flyer - 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term! Hasn't time flown? It doesn't seem long ago that we were starting the new school year! I hope that you were all able to have a very restful and relaxing Spring Break, spending time with your family and friends. It was a little cold at times but the sunshine was beautiful which always lifts the spirits.

It has been a lovely first week with the children who have been happy and cheerful, engaging in school life with enthusiasm. We are looking forward to continuing the strong start that we made following the full reopening of the school last term.



Learning and Curriculum

You will remember that I set out four main aims following the return to school. These were to:

- allow the children to settle back into the routine of school well, reminding them about expectations for behaviour and how to interact together;
- give them space to be able to express their feelings about lockdown and any anxieties that they have;
- allow teachers the opportunity to assess the learning needs of all the children;
- enable teachers to choose the best pedagogical strategies to address those needs.

I am pleased to say that we have been successful in meeting these aims. The children have settled back in very well, remembering the routines and expectations in school. It has been wonderful to see them play and work together building their relationships with each other. Anxieties and worries that the children have had have been able to be addressed through excellent RHE sessions by staff and any particular needs are being addressed through extra support.

Teachers have been able to assess the learning needs of the children and it has become clear which areas of the curriculum need the most focus; these are being targeted through whole class teaching, small group work and individual support where needed.

During the Summer Term, there will continue to be a clear, concerted focus on the core subjects of English and Maths with basic skills such as punctuation, spelling, phonics and reading, number bonds, time tables and the four operations being reinforced. Handwriting and presentation will also remain a priority.



As ever, there will be opportunities for the children to reinforce and practise these skills through some exciting topic work. In Ash Class, the children will be exploring the intriguing topic of 'Yellow' which I'm curious to see develop; following that, they will be developing their swashbuckling skills learning about 'Pirates', always a favourite! Elm Class will be setting off for Ancient Egypt, learning about this fascinating period in history and developing knowledge of the Nile. Yew Class will be continuing aboard the Titanic for a while as we only scratched the surface before the holidays. They will be learning about materials and their properties in Science, including changes of state. Following this, with the Olympics hopefully taking place in Japan, Yew Class will be learning about this amazing country as well as exploring the history of the Olympic Games, both ancient and modern.

As ever, look out for updates in our Friday Flyer about all of this!

'The Big Ask'

The Big Ask is the largest ever survey of children and young people in England, being run by The Children's Commissioner whose role it is to speak up for all children across the country and get their views heard. The last year has been really tough for children and young people, and they deserve a say in what happens next. The Big Ask will be used to show the government what children and young people really think.



As a school, we think that this is an excellent initiative (endorsed by the inspirational Marcus Rashford) and would like to ask all parents/carers to fill in the questionnaire, found at this [link](#), with your children. In school, the children will see or have already seen the The Big Ask Assembly which helps to explain a bit more about it and how it aims to help shape their future. There is also an opportunity for adults to fill out a questionnaire (which I have just done) and I would encourage you as parents/carers to do this as well.

Covid-19 arrangements - 'bubble' adjustments

Prior to the holidays, the three classes (Ash, Elm and Yew) were operating as discrete 'bubbles' within the school, with separate play and lunch times being implemented. With the easing of some restrictions over the holiday period but being careful to still operate in line with DfE Guidance, Elm and Yew Class will now operate as one 'bubble' sharing their play and lunch times; class learning will remain discrete with movement of children between classrooms still restricted. Ash Class will remain separate for play and lunch times for the time being.

As restrictions are further lifted in wider society, we will continue to review our arrangements in line with DfE Guidance and make any changes that we judge to be safe and acceptable. Thank you for your continued cooperation with Covid-19 arrangements.

After School Clubs – Summer Term 2021

A letter with details of School Clubs was sent to parents on Friday; it can also be read on our website <https://www.st-james-coldwaltham.w-sussex.sch.uk/Children/Clubs/>. We are delighted that After School Clubs are returning and that we will be able to offer the children these opportunities. Please complete the Google form by 9am on Monday 26th April 2021 if your child would like to join a club. The link to the Google form can be found on the website.

Uniform Reminder

As you are aware, when the school fully reopened last term, non-essential shops were still closed. To recognise the difficulty with being able to purchase items of school uniform, we asked that children were dressed as close to school uniform as possible. Now that shops have re-opened, we would be grateful if parents could make every effort to ensure the children are now dressed in correct and full school uniform. In particular, the children should now be wearing school shoes each day and socks should be grey or white. Trainers should only be worn on days when the children have PE and they come to school dressed in their PE kit.

We recognise that lockdown has had an effect on many families in terms of income. If any parents/carers are experiencing financial hardship and purchasing uniform is difficult, please contact Mrs Kirby at the School Office, in confidence. We will endeavour to reach an arrangement to support and help people as far as we are able to.

Missing Jumpers and Cardigans

Several school jumpers and cardigans have gone missing within school recently. It would be appreciated if parents/carers could please check to see if any clothing may have been taken home in error and return any items that do not belong to their children.

Driving and Parking in Church Lane

Thank you to all the parents/carers who comply with our request to not drive up Church Lane when dropping off or picking up their children. Unfortunately, a few parents are still continuing to drive into Church Lane without having consulted with the school about this. This causes a safety hazard to other families and can cause congestion which leads to difficulties for residents and service vehicles. Please do not drive into Church Lane when dropping off or collecting your children; the only exception to this should be parents/carers who have an arrangement to park on a private driveway or those with a disability dropping children off *alone*. A parking space is available for those with a disability and please do not hesitate to let the Office know if you would like to use it. May I stress that, if there is an able-bodied parent/carer accompanying a driver who has a Blue Badge, the car should remain off Church Lane and the children be walked up the lane by the able-bodied parent/carer.

School Improvements

Over the holidays, we were delighted to have newly refurbished toilets fitted for Ash Class. They have been using them this week, particularly enjoying being able to access the toilets straight from their classroom. This is a great improvement!



We are also thrilled to announce that the erection of the boundary fencing has now recommenced. The contractors are being very helpful and flexible in enabling us to use as wide an area of the school grounds as is safe to do so. We hope this work will be completed with no further interruptions.

INSET Day – Cancelled – 4th May 2021

Following enquiries from some parents/carers, we would like to confirm that the INSET Day planned for the 4th May is no longer taking place. We apologise for any confusion; due to the unexpected changes at the start of the year regarding the planned federation with another school, planned INSET Days have had to be adjusted. **Children will be required to attend school as usual on Tuesday 4th May.** There are no further INSET Days planned this term and the final day of the Summer Term will Friday 23rd July 2021.

We are very much looking forward to this term; it is always a busy time with lots of different events going on. As restrictions are lifted, we are optimistic that we may be able to hold some of the events that we so missed having last year such as Sports Day, an end-of-year production and other fun events. As and when we know it will be safe to hold these events and have further details about them, we will let you know. In the meantime, I wish you a very good two weeks and look forward to sharing more news in the next Friday Flyer.

Kind regards,



Mrs L Martin
Head of School

Important Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 28 th April 2021	Year 6 Child Measurement Programme – visit from school nurses
Monday 3 rd May 2021	Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 4 th May 2021	NO INSET DAY – children to be back in school
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term
Friday 23 rd July 2021	Last day of term



60-Second Vegtastic Lunchbox Hacks

Veg are a key part of a healthy diet but it can be a real struggle to get kids to eat enough of them. Adding an extra portion or two to their packed lunch will help to up their intake. Try these simple ideas to **veg-pack their lunchboxes** with limited faff.

The basic toolkit:

- **Containers** (small and lidded for dips, leftovers and more)
- **Cutlery** (if needed)
- **Thermos** (any heat-retaining flask is great for soups, baked beans, leftovers, etc.)
- **Bamboo kebab sticks** (optional, but helpful for making veggies more fun)



Top tip: Know your portions – a child's portion of veg is roughly 50g or what fits into a child's hand.



5 easy #LunchboxHacks to add more veg in 60 seconds or less:



1. The Salad-on-a-Stick



Get a bamboo kebab stick and thread on different veg such as cherry tomatoes, cubed cucumber, cubed cooked beetroot, chunks of peppers, raw button mushrooms, crunchy lettuce, etc) in fun colours. If your child isn't a fan of veg, try starting off by alternating veg with cooked meat, cubed cheese, etc to ease them into it.

My Favourite veg was:

2. The Lunch Crunch



1 carrot chopped into sticks (or pre-chopped carrot sticks) with a pot of hummus (or their favourite dip) adds a portion of veg.

I ate this many carrots:



3. The Sandwich Slice



Slice 5cm cucumber (about the length of a small egg) and add to a sandwich for an extra portion of veg with minimal effort.

I ate this much cucumber:



4. The Helpful Handful



Add a handful of ready-to-eat snacky veg to a container. Try cherry tomatoes, drained tinned sweetcorn, celery sticks, green beans, cucumber etc.



My Favourite veg was:

5. The Half-Baked Plan

Heat through half a tin of baked beans (ideally low sugar and salt) and stick in a heat-retaining flask for an easy veg portion win.

This week my rating is:

Top tip: Keep trying! If they are not used to veg in their packed lunch, it may be picked out and ignored on the first few days. The more they see it and interact with it, the more the veg becomes "normal".

For recipes, tips and free downloads visit: vegpower.org.uk



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