

Christ Church CE VA Primary School

'Let your light shine'



Headteacher: Emma Bray Deputy Headteacher: Rachael Clarke Senior Teachers: Aaron Rogers & Emily Walker

8 January 2021

NEWSLETTER NO: 15

Dear Parents and carers,



FROM THE HEADTEACHER ...

Let me begin by thanking all of our families for our Christmas cards, good wishes and gifts. The staff and I are really grateful for your time and effort. It means such a lot.

I hope you and your families are well and keeping yourselves safe. This week has been incredibly busy for everyone, whilst we have all tried to work out what the latest lockdown means to us and our community. I do hope you have managed to find a way forward for your family.

We have all been working at a rate of knots, organising the school to adapt to the latest set of requirements from the Government. This may be our third lockdown but it is very different to the previous ones. Our aim is to ensure that our children retain their sense of belonging to their school community, whether through remote learning or attending 'critical worker school.' They need to experience as little disruption and loss to social interaction as possible, as this is such an important stage for them developmentally, emotionally and academically.

Previously, there has been less pressure to learn at home, but we know this lockdown will continue to half term and very likely beyond. Yesterday, the Government announced that schools have to provide children with the equivalent of 3-5 hours of work a day, depending upon the age of the child. There is such a lot to plan for and many practicalities involved. In school, staff are supporting almost 100 children on site all day, whilst trying to teach the other 110 at home all at the same time.

I understand how hard it is trying to keep your child engaged online each day with the added challenges of working from home, sharing devices and internet strength, supporting your child's learning whilst managing zoom calls and other responsibilities. I know you will be doing your absolute best and can assure you our staff will be on hand to help you through.

With critical worker places at capacity, I need to ask that families only use our provision if they have absolutely no choice. We currently have large numbers of children and staff on site during a point in the crisis where the Government have advised the nation to stay home. If demand for places becomes too high we will need to further prioritise vacancies and consider whether: i) both parents work for the NHS, ii) single parents are critical workers, iii) the number of staff left to care for children is safe, and so on.

We can only do our best. I am reassured by the caring, supportive community that we have, that our children will receive our very best, for that is what they deserve.

Now on to the rest of our newsletter, to celebrate the great learning and attitudes of our children...



PERSONAL BESTS

We have decided to award two Personal Bests in each class! The first will be for the child who has achieved their personal best in school and the second will be for the child who has achieved their personal best at home! This week the children are:

Reception	-	School:	Antonia for showing huge increase in confidence.
		Home:	Filip for sending in photos of beautiful letter formation and careful cutting for his phonics work.
Year 1	-	School:	Fabian for working hard to remember his phonics in his writing!
		Home:	Billy for a positive attitude to learning at home.
Year 2	-	School:	Cody for excellent independent writing in Literacy.
		Home:	Zuri for great work on 'Our World' from her home.
Year 3	-	School:	Jake for a great attitude towards learning in class!
		Home:	Sinan for fabulous Maths work.
Year 4	-	School:	Noah for showing bravery and resilience.
		Home:	Rose for engaging and working hard in her home schooling!
Year 5	-	School:	Amelie for excellent focus.
		Home:	Aase for super hardwork – completing and posting all work to be marked!
Year 6	-	School:	Alessio for perseverance in all his learning.
		Home:	Jayden for working really well from home.

READING PERCENTAGES

We **are still asking** that children **read 4 or more times at home** and would be happy to receive photographic evidence from our home schooled children of parents' signatures in reading logs, which can be sent direct to the teacher via class dojo.

This week, Year 1 have won the reading trophy with 64% of children reading 4 or more times. Well done Year 1! They were closely followed by Year 6 who came in with 63% and Reception with 62%.

The remainder of the classes were as follows: Year 2 – 58%; Year 3 – 20%; Year 4 – 40% and Year 5 – 26%.

We do appreciate that things may be a little stressful but reading is so important for children even if they read recipes out while you're cooking tea it helps! Thank you!

READING RAFFLE

Our winners this week are Jan, Cody, Lily, Arthus, Monty, Salvatore and Alex. Enjoy your lovely new books!

STARS OF THE WEEK

This week our child 'Star of the Week' is Henry in Year 3 for doing his very best to stay positive, for encouraging others and being a great friend! Well done Henry.

Mrs Edmonds is our adult 'Star'! Mrs Edmonds has been given her award for boosting staff morale through which has been a very hard and long week.

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FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have agreed to provide one £10 voucher per child per week during lockdown, to help towards food costs for children entitled to **benefits based** free school meals. **If your child is not in school** (the children in school are provided with a hot meal every day) then you will receive a voucher next week from Wonde. This is the same company who provided the vouchers over the Christmas break. The vouchers will be issued to the email address we hold in school and will be able to be downloaded to your phone for use at the supermarket of your choice. If anyone has a problem with this please let the office know who will try to see if they can organise a paper copy for you.

THE SPORTS PROJECT

We have been contacted by the Sports Project who are a non-profit interest company that improved children's mental health.

They have designed a variety of **online after-school clubs** for the remainder of Term 3 – Gymnastics, Active Juggling, Body Pump, Active Adventures for EYFS and KS1, Acrobatics, Football Fitness, Yoga/Pilates, Cheerleading, Military Fitness, Strongman for KS2 and Dance and also a before school kickstart club and lunchtime stretch and move club to help keep children active throughout the day, while offering social connections outside of the home.

Starting 11 January, they have given more information and the option to sign up by clicking on the link below

<https://the-sports-project.class4kids.co.uk>

Please note we are just advertising this facility and are not recommending it.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Bray

