

# Newsletter



22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

## Message from Headteacher

I hope all of our families are keeping well. There is no doubt that the start to the year has been a challenging one for us all. Thank you for the many messages of encouragement that we have received since coming back to school.

Thank you for your engagement with home learning. We all know and understand how challenging it is for families, trying to balance home learning for one or more children alongside work and financial pressures so please be kind to yourselves and know that your best is good enough.

The mental health of both children and adults has to take priority in times like these. We encourage children to access their remote learning through Seesaw daily. Keeping a regular routine and having interactions with staff are likely to have a very positive impact on children's mental health as well as keeping them learning.

However, it is equally important to take a break when things seem overwhelming. Learning from home will work best when you and your child are calm so please don't feel guilty or anxious about taking a step back when you need to- we are all finding our way through unprecedented times!

If you are finding the work that has been set difficult to access and want to adjust things in a way that suits your family more, we will support that too and I would encourage you to discuss this with your child's teacher if you haven't already done so. Next week we will review the responses to today's questionnaire about home learning and write to you detailing any changes we can make.

Please remember that staff are available throughout the day to talk about any tasks that seem tricky; you can email the class email account, upload a note to Seesaw or call the school and we will happily support with any task.

All of us at school are committed to doing everything we can to help. I am happy to have a phone conversation with any parent who would like to talk through how things are going and you can make an appointment through the school office.

With very best wishes,

Alice Purcell



## Teams Meet-Ups

We have really enjoyed setting up Teams meet-ups for the classes over the past two weeks.



Here are some comments following the sessions:

"It was great to see everyone's faces."  
"I loved seeing my friends who I haven't seen for a while."  
"It was nice to find out what everyone's been up to."  
"I liked finding out how people have coped and how they're getting on."

To see all members of the call, you need to join through the Teams app, which you can download to your device. You can also join through your web browser, but you will only be able to see the person who is talking.

Two members of staff will be in each meet up and we ask that for safeguarding purposes:

- Children are appropriately dressed in daytime clothes
- Children are in shared rooms such as the lounge or kitchen, not in bedrooms
- Children are appropriately supervised at home
- Cameras are switched on throughout meet-ups
- You do not make recordings of the meet ups

## Play Park

There are signposted guidelines for use of the Parish Council play park for 6 year olds and under. There must not be more than one adult with each family and adults need to stay at least 1 metre apart. We would be grateful if you could avoid using the park between 8.45 and 9am and 3.15 and 3.30pm as these are the times when children will be arriving and departing from school.

## Tables and Chairs

Following the purchase of new furniture in Elm class last year, we currently have around 15 tables and 30 chairs, which we would like to be reused if possible. If you know of any businesses/organisations who may benefit from these, we would be very grateful if you could let us know. They are all in good condition, but some of the tables and chairs are of different sizes and colours.



## Donation of Devices

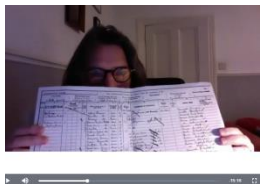
If you, or anyone you know, has a spare device that is not being used and could be donated to the school, this would be most welcome. It may be that some people received new devices for Christmas and have old ones that are still working but not being used. Any donations will be used by the school to loan to families that need them and support children attending the school setting.

## Standard Assessments

The DfE advised last week that SATS have been suspended for this year and the EYFS profile at the end of the year for reception will not be mandatory. However, we will still be doing everything we can to support children to reach the same standards as would have been expected at these assessment points. This will mean that children will be well prepared for the next stage in their learning.

## How do we Find Out about the Past?

Michael Gorley from Historic England had planned to visit Willow class this term. Unfortunately we had to cancel his visit so he very kindly organised an online lesson instead.



Wednesday 20th January 2021

I can look at primary and secondary sources to find information about world wars.

|                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| primary source<br>is a document<br>like recording<br>diary or any<br>other source<br>that was at the<br>time period. | secondary source<br>is one that was found<br>later by someone who<br>did not experience<br>first hand<br>textbooks, website |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Apple Class Return!

It has been lovely to open our pre-school class up again this week and the children have really enjoyed chatting and sharing their news with each other.



## News from FIS!

Thank you for your support with recent fundraising, although it all seems so long ago now!

Christmas cards & mugs £353.43 Non Uniform day £ 79.94

Amazon Smile - You can also raise money EFFORTLESSLY for FIS whilst doing your Amazon shop. All you have to do is shop on Amazon through Amazon Smile (choosing Friends of Ide School PTA as your preferred charity) rather than the normal Amazon site. Save the link to your home screen and you won't even notice the difference. Same products, same prices, same insanely quick delivery guaranteed! The only difference is that Amazon (a multi-£ turnover Ltd Co) give FIS a donation each time you shop!

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1098614-0>

Pre loved uniform available to order on webpage

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofideschool/index.cfm>

## Authors in Chestnut

Chestnut class have been learning about the story of a family of refugees. They made a news report to report on the circumstances that many refugees find themselves in and the challenges that they face, even when they reach safety. They dealt with this with compassion and maturity.

