



Chilham St Mary's CE Primary School

Term 1 Newsletter 21st September 2020

Smiles and Sunshine!

Welcome back to a new school year – it really was so lovely to open the gates on the first day of term and have such smiling faces to greet me – children and parents! A special welcome to our new Year R Wrens who have had such a positive start to school and to their families; also to our new children and families who have joined other classes and year groups – it really is wonderful to have you all part of our school community. My prayers were definitely answered when I asked for sunshine for the first couple of weeks so that we could get outside as much as possible – it really has been glorious ☺

A great start

Thanks to everyone for following the guidance document we sent out to parents just before the start of term and to you all for taking notice of additional notes, signs and frantic hand waving – particularly at the end of the day when I am doing my best to ensure everyone is waiting for their children where they should be! All of this has ensured we really have got off to a good, safe start with children arriving at school ready to learn. It's just great to have them all back.

Snacks and Drinks

We now have the regular fresh fruit delivery for our children in Herons and Wrens – this was slightly delayed at the start of term but is now in full operation. The children in these classes are all offered a piece of fruit at morning break time, therefore they do not need to bring in snacks from home. Can we please ask that you do not send them in with break time snacks – thank you.

For children in Martins and Peacocks, as we are not currently running our school tuck shop and the fruit for children scheme does not extend to Key Stage 2, they may bring in a **healthy snack** from home to be eaten at morning break. ***No crisps or sweets please.***

Every child should bring in their own **named** water bottle every day – ***this should only contain water please.***

Traffic and Parking

Thank you to everyone who is parking at Taylors Hill in the mornings and afternoons – this will really make a difference to the volume of traffic in the village. The red and white barriers that the council put in outside the school have created a safe place for parents and children to wait when arriving at school and until the gates open – please do use this space. They have, however, made it more difficult for cars to pass on School Hill – even more reasons to park at Taylors Hill car park and walk up!

Online Safety

As a school, we are working through our National Online Safety Accreditation. As part of the process we need parents to get involved by completing the ***Annual Level 1 Online Safety Course for Parents and Carers 2020-2021.*** You can access this course, along with a whole range of really useful

resources for parents and carers so that you feel confident and informed to support your child to be safe online. This is particularly important now with so much emphasis on remote, online learning.

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/chilham-st-mary-s-c-of-e-primary-school>

We would really appreciate your support to achieve our accreditation. Thank you ☺

Morning and After School Clubs

We are really pleased to be able to offer a morning club to support parents who need to get off to work – this is available every day throughout the term from 8:00am and must be booked in advance via ParentMail. Don't forget we also have a 4:30 Club every Wednesday and Thursday throughout the term which must be booked in advance via ParentMail.

We hope to resume some after school sports clubs in term 2 with Teamtheme.

School Photographs

Sarah Prescott, our school photographer, will be coming in **on Tuesday 29th September 2020**. Please note, due to the many Covid restrictions that are in place, we will not be doing sibling photographs this time. It will not be possible to have younger pre-school siblings in for photographs either. We do hope you understand.

School Dinners

The price of a school dinner for years 3 – 6 is now **£2.28**. Meals are supplied by an external provider and therefore must be paid for on the day or in advance by cash or cheque – please make cheques payable to Caterlink Ltd. The autumn menu is available on the school website.

Forest School

We are aiming to start our Forest School sessions next week in the grounds of Chilham Castle. A letter with full details will be sent out later this week.

Parent / Teacher Consultations

These will be in the form of a 10 minute telephone conversation with your child's class teacher. We will be organising a timetable of phone call slots over 2 afternoons/early evenings towards the end of this term. More details will follow in due course.

Thank you all for your continued support – it has been lovely to see you all again at the school gates. Let's hope the sunny autumn weather continues (although I think more rain is on the horizon!)

Best wishes

Delia Cooper

