Churchfields' Weekly Newsletter

Friday 01 January 2021

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to express my immense gratitude to the whole school community for the way everyone has pulled together throughout this extremely challenging week. The staff and I have received nothing but encouraging words of support from parents/carers which mean so much to us. I am very grateful to you for managing Tuesday's sudden school closure as I appreciate the challenges this will have posed.

Our new remote education system is now well under way using Google Classroom alongside the paperbased resources that were made available earlier this week. Most pupils are engaging with the new system which is pleasing - thank you for supporting them with this. We understand it may take several days for everyone to settle down to this new way of working. The requirements of remote education stipulated by the Department for Education are very different from last year. When not in school, primary aged children are expected to complete and submit three hours of work per day. Children who currently have a school place but do not attend for part of the week should also complete this work but only on the days they are not in school. This is to ensure that pupils do not fall further behind as we continue to manage life during the pandemic. Schools are now obliged to follow up on non-engagement with home learning just as we normally would for children not attending school. By doing this, our aim is to support you to support your child to get the most out of remote education and continue to make progress across the whole curriculum alongside their peers. If your child is sick and so cannot take part in remote learning on any given day, please report their 'absence' in the usual way by contacting the school office on 01225 703026 or

admin@churchfields.wilts.sch.uk We are required to apply our normal absence procedures to home learning from now onwards. Undoubtedly you will have many questions about the new remote education system at Churchfields which I have attempted to answer in advance on the attached document, "Remote Education Parent Information". I would be grateful if you could read this carefully as it outlines what is expected from all members of the school community in order to support our pupils at this most challenging time. Should you have any further questions or concerns following this, please do contact your child's classteacher or myself via the school office. We want to support parents/carers as best we can so please do get in touch.

Please continue to report to us any confirmed COVID-19 cases of your children that are on roll at Churchfields, even if they are not currently in school. I am still required to liaise with Public Health England across the lockdown period, and will of course keep parents/carers informed about any known cases, albeit anonymously, in our school community. Thankfully, I can confirm there is nothing new to report in this regard.

The Education Secretary yesterday announced that the national tests for year six (SATs) will no longer go ahead in the summer. Although some pupils and parents/carers may find this news frustrating, we hope this has removed a great deal of stress from some families whose child is approaching the end of their time in primary school at this unprecedented time. Pupils will still receive teacher assessments as normal

I will continue to update the school community with relevant news as we progress through the lockdown. In the meantime, I hope you keep safe and well.

Kind regards,

Simon Futcher.



Congratulations to these mathletes who have

been working really hard over the holidays. Lots of certificates earned!

Gold: Hannah

Silver : Alex C, Oliver CJ, Alexis, Maddox, Hannah, Isla, Lauren, Arthur S, Henry V

Bronze: Oscar, Alex C, Oliver CJ (x2), Florence, Ethan, Josiah, Gracie, Alexis (x3), Maddox (x3), Hannah, Henry H, Oliver H, Lauren, Isla, Tomas, William J, Eloise (x3), Jessie, Asahi, George P, George R, Arthur S, Oliver S, Isabella, Henry V, Freya-Rose

Remember that mathletics is a great resource for you to use during lockdown. As well as the regular online activities you can download workbooks (and answers!). Under the Explore tab you can find some helpful videos and catchy songs to help learn times tables.





Online learning - Kestrel Class



Kestrels have done really well with their online learning. Obviously learning the new platform has been a bit of a challenge but I've been thrilled with the quality of work that's been coming in. This week our focus has been on finding out about space: we've designed some amazing astronaut badges, researched a planet and written some amazing pieces of creative writing. Learning heads, shoulders, knees and toes in French has also been very popular!



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Wiltshire's Wellbeing Hub providing support to those who need it

With national lockdown measures now in place, Wiltshire Council's Wiltshire Wellbeing Hub is still available to anyone who is struggling during this difficult time – and will now be available on Saturdays.



The hub can help and provide support to those who perhaps don't have a network around them, and also signpost them to where additional help is available in their local area. Hundreds of community groups, run by volunteers, are still set up across the county, providing invaluable assistance to those who need it.





We know that remote learning can put a strain on technology in the home. We have been notified that Google Classroom is accessible on both Xbox and PS.

The photograph shows how this can be done.

We hope that this is of some help to you all.

Many thanks

Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Hwb

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

- 1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot
- 2. Go in to my games and apps
- 3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
- 4. Type in: Hwb and log in as you would in school
- 5. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
- · Word
- · Teams
- · Excel
- DawarDair
- · Your emails
- 6. To move around you use the Xbox control or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

- 1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
- 2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
- 3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
- 4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
- 5. Type Hwb into the browser and log in as you would in school
- 6. You can then access your work through Google Classroom or OneDrive and use key packages including:
- · Word
- · Teams
- · Excel
- PowerPoint
- · Your emails





