

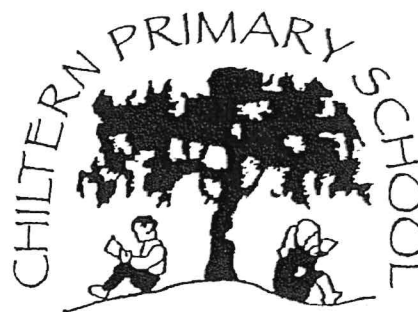
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'Together, over time, we are proud to learn to make a difference to ourselves and others.'

Newsletter, Spring Term April 16 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after our two week holiday. I hope you stayed safe and well?

#### **COVID News:**

I am pleased to report that the 2 staff who reported a positive test result just before/ on the first day of the break are well-recovered and back in class/ the office. None of the other 15 isolating staff who had been linked to these cases tested positive, so that was a relief for us. I hope the other families who had positive cases in the holiday are also recovering well. We will keep following the current guidance and very much continue to look forward to more normality in our school structure – if not by June 21 (if Government do lift all restrictions), by the start of the Autumn term. As long as the data stays low, it is promising.

We did get an explanation from track and trace as to why one member of staff had 2 positive LFT results but 2 negative PCR tests results. They think that the staff member has definitely had the virus sometime after January, before our weekly LFTs started, but had not realised. The LFT can pick up the virus months afterwards as dead cells stay in your body for a long time. The PCR test picks up live cells. We now know that staff member is not contagious and would not need to isolate if it happens again. Thank you for your continued, on-going support.

#### **Unitary Council:**

From 1.4.2021, Northamptonshire is now split into North and West councils – Northampton is in the West. This has brought changes to many aspects of school life e.g. payroll and HR and several changes to our IT infrastructure and connections. There should be little disruption with our internal systems and the LA are working to provide patches for our server to enable new addresses and portals to be set up.

#### **Music Lessons:**

Lessons have continued this week and the ukulele project is just awaiting a start date.

#### **Hotshots Basketball:**

The lunch and after school clubs made a successful re-start this week. Both are taking place outside whenever possible and once these have been completed, based on previous registers, then new clubs will be advertised ready for the second summer term, all being well anyway.

#### **Beanstalk Readers:**

This support charity with its reading volunteers has also restarted this term to help some of our most reluctant readers across KS2.

**M and M Theatre Production:**

Being hopeful of a lifting of all restrictions from 21.6.2021, we have booked the travelling theatre company for 22.6.2021 to perform their Wizard of Oz show. There will be a small per pupil charge of £3 and this will be added to ParentPay soon. Their previous performances have been wonderfully inspiring for the whole school.

**Breakfast and After School Clubs:**

These continue to fill up well to maximum numbers and though there are some places left (particularly on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays) don't forget we also offer adhoc days for both clubs if you need one-off support with childcare at short notice...space permitting.

**Staffing:**

It is a pleasure to report that almost all staff who have been shielding or absent due to illness are now back in class.

Mrs Carter is off for another couple of weeks following an operation before the holidays and Mrs Richardson should be back in May – we continue to wish them a speedy recovery.

**Parking:**

It has been brought to our attention that some parents are reversing their cars into the vehicle entrance at the front of the school to turn their cars around. Please can you keep with the flow of traffic to avoid further bottlenecks at drop-off times and be aware that the distanced queue for pedestrians entering the site also crosses this entrance, making it potentially very dangerous for adults and pupils waiting for the gates to open.

Further to the above, the only car park available to parents, other than those with a blue badge displayed, is the one behind the Chiltern House, adjacent to the field – thank you.

Please continue to take care and have a wonderful weekend!

Kind regards,

Mrs Penny Howell

Head Teacher