Chevening (St Botolph's) CE Primary School Newsletter No 25

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is the newsletter I never dreamt of writing; the idea of all schools needing to close is deeply unsettling; this week has brought us to the point of not actually being able to do the job that is the premise of this school's purpose: to gather and work together in order to provide education for children in a Christian context.

With all the worry and fear around, it is hard and, quite possibly, unwise to completely shield our children from all that the adults and their peers are doing, thinking and saying. Nonetheless, in school we have tried to take steps that are measured and to speak in positive and calm ways, so that our anxieties do not add to the burdens our children are already carrying.

I have written (many times!) this week, with updates on our school situation and to try and explain how we think we will function from next week. Our staff team have worked incredibly hard, supporting the children, each other and our families; there have been moments of both legitimate worry and hilarity; I am exceptionally proud of our team. Likewise, my head has definitely swollen with pride as I have seen the commitment and care of our children to each other and their grown-ups, aw well as the solid support of our Governors and friends at St Botolph's Church. Thank you all!

In the midst of our uncertainty, we need to be positive and remain hopeful. You will already have read how we plan to maintain learning for our children in the days ahead. We are making adaptations to our website, so that we can keep things simple, helpful and effective for all. We are mindful that, for the time being, our children will be 'needing' to access the internet more than usual; please ensure your child is safe online – see Mr Qureshi's update here. We have also added our @CeChevening Twitter feed and the CEOP reporting button to our front page. Please follow us and use them!

In addition, we hope to create a new email address to support our Chevening family staying in touch, even though we may be at a distance. *1Peter3:8@chevening.kent.sch.uk* will enable parents and children to share some of their learning, questions and thinking, without filling teachers' individual email accounts; staff professional-life will continue and we need to be able to receive and send official messages without interruption. We will confirm when this is set up and ready for action. By the way, the Bible reference is a reminder and exhortation to stay part of 'the team'; to hold on to and demonstrate our school values wherever we may be: **"Finally… be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."**

To demonstrate our unity and hope, please see the opportunity to join together by shining a symbolic candle on Sunday evening. We hope to continue issuing a weekly newsletter, so that we can encourage, support and celebrate together, as well as incorporating contributions from our Governors, children and families.

With best wishes,
Miss Minnis

Dear Chevening family

At this difficult time, I want to send my best wishes and prayers to you all. There are so many questions we all have about school, work and family life. Please stay safe, follow the guidance provided by DfE and stay in touch via school email updates and the school website.

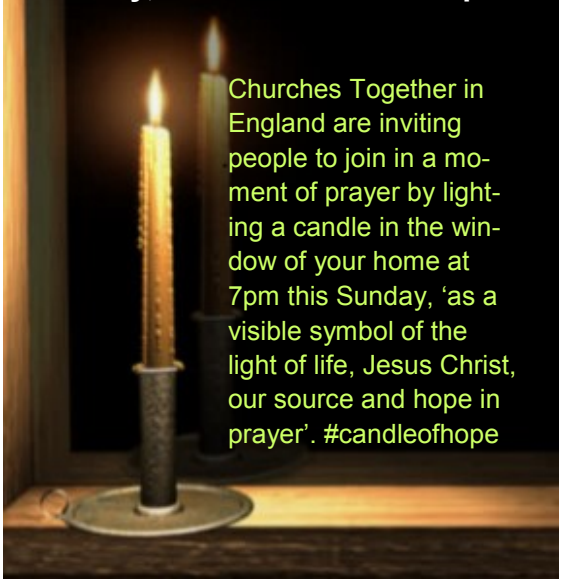
On behalf of the Governing Body, I thank our wonderful staff team for all they have coordinated to date, as well as the efforts that will be required in the days ahead. Particular thanks to Miss Minnis and the Senior Leadership Team, who have led our school with great care and compassion. The love and concern shown by the school family has provided great encouragement.

Can I ask that we all continue to live by our school values of Love, Faith, Compassion, Courage, Perseverance, Honesty, Respect and Forgiveness at this time. Together we will all be learning new methods and starting new routines to ensure our children Learn, Believe and Achieve.

Many thanks

Prue Burrlock
Chair of Governors

Light a Candle of Hope
National Call To Prayer
Sunday, 22nd March at 7:00 pm



Churches Together in England are inviting people to join in a moment of prayer by lighting a candle in the window of your home at 7pm this Sunday, 'as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer'. #candleofhope

How to support your child if they are feeling anxious about coronavirus

YOUNGMINDS 360° schools

A number of helpful organisations have produced information and resources to assist parents/carers in supporting their children in uncertain times; YoungMinds is one, please find all of the resources here.

It's understandable for children and adults to feel concerned or anxious about this virus and it is natural for parents to want to support and protect their children. You might do this in many different ways – giving them a hug, playing a game or having a chat. The most important thing is for your child to know that you are there for them, ready to help them if things get hard. We hope these tips help you support your child at this time.

1. **Talk** to your child about what is going on. You could start by asking them what they have heard about coronavirus.
2. **Try** to answer their questions and reassure them in an age appropriate manner. Remember, you do not need to know all the answers, but talking can help them feel calm.
3. **Explain** to your child that it is natural to worry sometimes and everyone does it. This feeling, like all feelings, will come and go.
4. **Don't** try to shield your child from the news, as it's likely they will find out somehow from school, being online or from friends.
5. **Be aware** that your child will often copy your behaviour, so if you are feeling anxious or overwhelmed, you may need to limit how much you express this in front of them.
6. **Reassure** your child that it is unlikely they will get seriously ill, and if they do feel ill you will look after them. Your child might be concerned about who will look after you if you catch the virus. Let them know the kind of support you have as an adult so that they don't feel they need to worry about you.
7. **Give** some practical tips to your child about how they can look after themselves. For example, show them how to wash their hands properly, and remind them when they should be doing it.
8. **Keep** as many regular routines as possible, so that your child feels safe and that things are stable.
9. **Spend** time doing a fun activity with your child (e.g. reading, playing, painting, cooking) to help reassure them and reduce their anxiety. This is also a great way of providing a space for them to talk through their concerns, without having a 'big chat'. For activities ideas, visit our **starting a conversation with your child guide.**
10. **Encourage** your child to think about the things they can do to make themselves feel safer and less worried. Help them find things that distract or relax them.
11. **Be aware** that your child may want more close contact with you at this time and feel anxious about separation. Try to provide this support whenever possible.
12. **Remember** to look after yourself too. If you are feeling worried, or anxious about coronavirus, talk to someone you trust who can listen and support you.

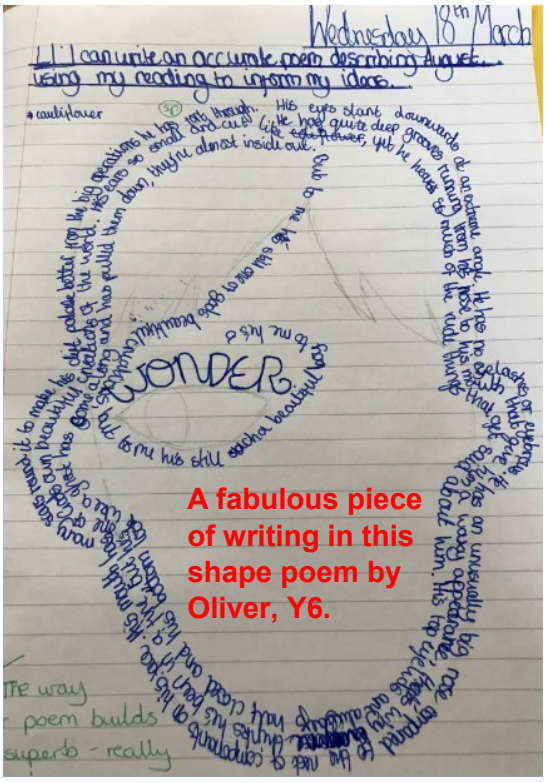
Christian Values

Our values are centred on God and acknowledge some characteristics modelled in the Bible: **LOVE, FAITH, FORGIVENESS, PERSEVERANCE, COMPASSION, HONESTY, RESPECT, COURAGE.**

This week we recognise all the children in every class for showing all of the Christian Values. For being loving and compassionate towards each other and showing much courage, faith and hope. We are very proud of you!

Class R

Class R had their first cooking lesson to make jam tarts but before they could do anything they wrote a list of ingredients for Mrs Miller to ensure that she could get everything we needed. Next, they looked at the recipe together to break down the steps and finally worked together as a team to make the jam tarts. They smelt delicious and were certainly fit for any King or Queen!

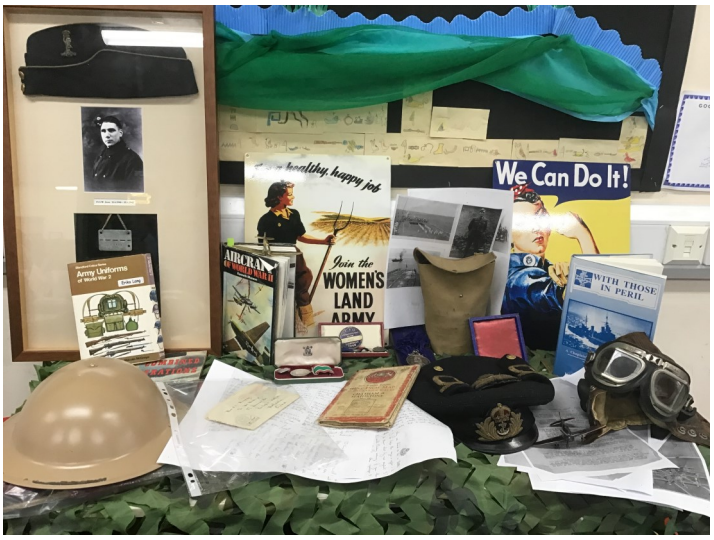


Class 6

Class 6 decided to lighten the mood this lunchtime by performing a Haka flashmob. They have been learning the Haka as part of their learning on Oceania.

Class 4

Class 4 have been bringing in their precious family memories and artefacts from WW2 for our Class museum.



Class 2

Class 2 have been refining their artist skills by creating cards for Mothering Sunday.

FRESH PAINT is a visual arts competition for 5-18 year olds at Trinity Theatre as part of the Arts Box Festival 2020, celebrating the creativity of local young people. The theme for the exhibition is "Kindness" and can be of any form but must show what kindness means to the artist.

There will be winners in each of the four categories (school year 1-3; 4-6; 7-9; 10-13) and three overall winners.

Artwork will be displayed in the Trinity Gallery from 3-16 August.

For more information, email education@trinitytheatre.net

The Great Science Share

The annual campaign to inspire primary and secondary children to share their scientific questions with new audiences runs again for 2020. **GSS** encourages students to ask and investigate their own questions – with no boundaries! Students can share work they have done in school or at home, with the community. The website gives guidance on organising a sharing event, as well as scientist answering children's questions in videos, blogs and Twitter. Visit www.greatscienceshare.org

The Royal Institution
Science Lives Here

ExpeRimental – Bring Science Home

The Royal Institute in London has an online section containing a series of short films making it fun, easy and cheap to do science experiments at home with your children. The films give you lots of ideas for activities that will help you explore the world around you, question and experiment together. There are 'hands-on' activities with plenty of learning opportunities and a chance for fun!
Visit www.rigb.org/experimental

Dates Ahead

Date	Event
19th March	Pupil Reports sent out
20th March	Cancelled - Class R Leeds Castle
22nd March 10:30 -11:30 am	Cancelled: School Service at St Botolph's Church
23rd March	Cancelled - Parent Consultations
24th March 5 pm	Cancelled- Westerham Music Festival Y3
26th March	Cancelled - Parent Consultations
30th March	Cancelled - Love2Dance at the Stag Theatre
31st March 2pm	Cancelled - End of Term Service - St Botolph's Church
1st April	Cancelled Inset Day - No children in school
2nd - 15th April	Easter Holidays
Date TBC	Term 5 Begins

Online Safety

With so much of our learning now dependant on accessing information on the internet, we thought it very important to remind everyone about parental controls and the supervision of young, vulnerable people on the internet.

If you haven't 'grasped the nettle' yet, Vodafone have a very useful page describing the different types of controls and how you can set them up. There is a lot of information out there to help but this site has links to useful step by step guides:

https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/parental-controls-and-filtering

There is no substitute for talking to your children while on the internet together but parental controls help for the times when you can't be monitoring closely.

CLICK CEOP
Internet Safety