



## Christchurch Infant School

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**Headteacher: Mr D Baxter**



NEWSLETTER 1

Tuesday 15 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school, and welcome to new parents.

I would like to send out a very warm welcome to you all for the new academic year on behalf of everyone in the Christchurch Infant School team.

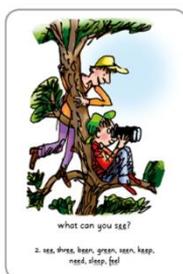
I sincerely hope that everyone is well and getting back into the school routines. We are all very excited about the new year ahead and working closely with our parent, carers and children to continue to offer the best educational experience.

It would be remiss of me to ignore the current situation we find ourselves in regarding the Coronavirus, and I am incredibly grateful to all of the staff for the many hours spent planning, preparing and now executing our reopening of the entire school. I am particularly pleased to welcome our new pupils who for some only saw the school for the first time recently.

As we continue to work together to adapt to the 'new normal', I would like to thank you all for your patience and support during this difficult time. There continues to be daily updates from the government for schools, and we will continue to ensure we provide the nurturing environment we pride ourselves upon, whilst ensuring everyone continues to learn in the safest way possible.

As the year unfolds, we hope to be able to return to providing the activities we have had to put on hold and will look to offer these as soon as they are safe to do so. As well as welcoming the whole school back and our new Early Years Year Group, we are also happy to introduce new members of staff to the team this year:

- Mrs Jones, who is our new Teaching Assistant in Rabbits Class
- Miss Connolly, who is our new 'front of house' Administrative Assistant in the school office.



Every year we review our teaching practices, and this year more than ever we are striving to continue to offer a broad and balanced curriculum. Despite some constraints brought about by Covid-19, we will continue to deliver our very effective **Read Write Inc phonics** which is fundamental to the learning of reading. We will be sending home exclusive information



home soon for parents about the delivery of our phonics programme.

We have high expectations for all of our learners and this structure enables us to provide the enrichment and challenge that our curriculum promotes. Our priority in the short term is to ensure ALL children have settled back into an educational setting and will be looking to support children in catching up any learning that may have been missed during the lockdown.

Every pupil has been given a new Reading Record. Please take the time to familiarise yourself with its contents, some of which have changed this year. It contains lots of information and can therefore be a very useful tool, if your child uses it fully. Don't forget that you can use it to write notes to the teachers. We will continue to use the Year Group email facility should you not be able to get an important message to the teacher in the morning.

For Year 1 this is: [year1@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:year1@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk)

For Year 2 this is: [year2@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:year2@christchurchinf.dorset.sch.uk)

For all EYFS children (Starfish, Dolphins, Turtles and Seahorses) we encourage you to use Tapestry to write your messages).



Communicating and working with parents and carers is a crucial part of what we do, making sure you get the correct information about activities, events and things that really matter. **We encourage all parents to sign up for our ParentMail service** as this is the most efficient way to receive information in a timely fashion, but we have printed letters for those not yet or unable to register. ParentMail will be beneficial to you because messages will be sent by email and, when needed, we can also send text messages directly to mums, dads and other carers to communicate important or occasionally last-minute information.

**Attendance** is key to any child's success in school. Like all schools and in line with legislation and BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Local Authority) guidelines, we are not able to authorise the majority of holidays undertaken during term times.

Thank you for sending your child into school looking so smart in our **school uniform**. Appearance is very important to a child's self-esteem and in helping them to feel a valued member of our well-respected community. It is important that this is maintained throughout the year. To assist with returning lost items to their rightful owners, please could you ensure that all of your child's clothing is named.

### **Jewellery, hair ornaments and nail varnish**

For health and safety reasons we do not allow children to wear jewellery. The exceptions to this rule are earring studs in pierced ears, and small objects of religious significance. Children are required to remove any items during PE lessons to prevent them from causing injury. Please note teachers are not permitted to remove earrings. Nail varnish is not permitted at school. Hair should be tied back – bows and hair accessories should be in school colours. Tram lines shaved into hair are not permitted.

### **Pastoral and Library Updates**

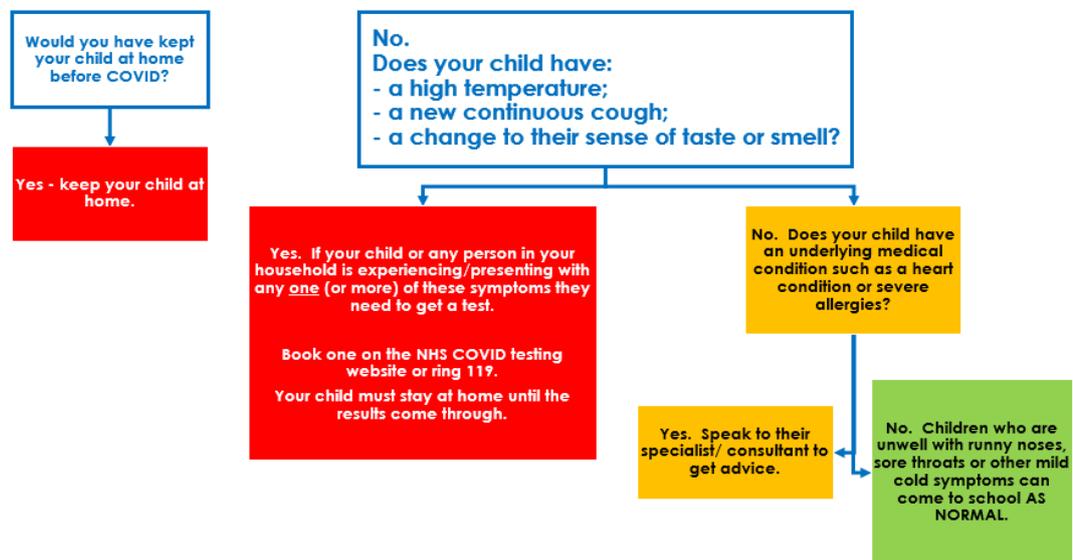
There have been some changes to the school over the summer break. Mrs Chapman, our School Pastoral Assistant, now has her very own private office. We have also been creating a brand new library space and when this is completed we will be officially opening it to the school children. More news on this will be coming soon.



## Covid-19 Updates:

- **Children awaiting a test result are not to return until and unless they get a negative result.** Transparency and honesty is crucial but if someone is asymptomatic, they could still be positive. **Should a child be tested and have a positive result for Covid-19,** we would then consult with Public Health England who may instruct to close the class bubble for 14 days. We understand that this could cause difficulties at very short notice so please we ask the school community to strictly adhere to the government's rules for minimising the risks.
- **Parents need to step aside as much as possible.** There has been a case this week in a BCP school, where a parent has tested positive following dropping off a child in school. Please stay clear of our School Caretaker when gates are opened and social distance between other parents and teaching staff in the school playground.

## Covid-19 Symptoms Flowchart



Please observe entrance and exit routes and we request that **only one parent from each family** escorts children onto our site. Please do not come earlier than your class opening time so that we can avoid large crowds.

## Medication

If you require us to keep medication in school for your child, please can we ask you to ensure it is sent to the school office for safe keeping. If you have not yet completed a medication authorisation form, these can be downloaded from the school website.



## Birthdays

In light of the current Covid-19 circumstances, we politely ask that you do not send cakes or sweets into school to celebrate birthdays. We understand that this is a special occasion for children, but we have to minimise risk as best we can.

### Other updates:

#### **Road Users**

Please be aware that the roads around the school are extremely busy at the beginning and end of the school day. Please:

- be considerate of other road users and residents.
- take special care where children are trying to cross the road.
- **do not park on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school entrance**, not even to drop your child/ren off. This can be very hazardous to all concerned.



#### **Uniform donations**

In light of Covid-19 restrictions, as well as limited storage space, please can we have no further donations of uniform, thank you.

I would like to finish by thanking you in anticipation of your support as we work together to ensure your child has a great year at Christchurch Infant School. We really hope that we will be able to welcome you all to the school at some stage of the year to share each other's company and celebrate the successes of our children.

Kind regards

Mr Baxter

Headteacher