



Newsletter Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021



Message from Mrs Grainger

We are genuinely excited and so looking forward to welcoming all our children back to school from next Monday 8th March. Three days and counting! To have our school community reunited for the first time since Christmas will certainly be very special.

Since January, I have thanked parents and children for all their hard work at home in nearly every weekly newsletter. This week, I thank you in advance for what will hopefully be the last few days of remote learning. So, thank you for the time, effort and dedication you have given to support learning at home. We know at times it has been challenging.

Thanks should also go to the Chadsmead team for working incredibly hard. The additional workload that this situation has presented has been immense - altering our curriculum input, adapting resources for remote learning, providing quality feedback to those children at home, preparing reading materials, lateral flow testing for staff (and the associated training), more reports back to the Government, Local Authority and Public Health England than you can imagine to name but a few. The nature of the people who work in schools means that they are always putting children first. So thank you team, you are all simply amazing.

As parents and carers you can now hopefully look forward to some level of resumed normality regarding the education of your children. Teachers will focus initially on settling the children back into school, ensuring that they are happy and secure. We will provide opportunities for play, collaboration, physical exercise and utilise our outdoor space as much as possible. We will prioritise identifying gaps and re-

establishing good progress in phonics, reading, writing and mathematics. Our curriculum will remain broad and ambitious, with lots of wonderful cross curricular learning. What some of the children at home may have lost is their willingness to be independent and the ability to problem-solve for themselves, as well as their stamina for sustained learning. Some children may be unsure at losing their 1:1 adult (you), having to work with others and remembering how to compromise. We will do all that we can to ensure that the children continue to develop these essential skills for learning.

As a school, we should be so proud of what we have achieved in unbelievably difficult circumstances. It has been a real testament to Chadsmead as a community in the way that we have all pulled together to help and support one another. We really do look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 8th March.

Returning to School

We are looking forward to a full return to school next week. REMEMBER: No work to be submitted to the class bubble email this week. Instead, please send your **child's learning for this week and the entire lockdown** in their remote learning book, back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Thank you.

INSET Days

As previously stated, we consider our training days to be of highest importance. We plan these days ahead for the whole year and use them for school improvement and training. Therefore, I wish to highlight the remaining INSET days and confirm school will be closed to pupils:

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

# curriculum

What has your child been learning about in class this week?

## Years 1 & 2

This week we have been completing lots of science activities and sorting animals into groups, deciding whether they are a mammal, reptile, fish, amphibian or bird. We have also learnt about animal diets and how we know whether an animal is a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore.

In English we have been brushing up on our grammar skills, making sure we are writing sentences that make sense and thinking carefully about where we put our punctuation.

In maths, Apple and Elm class have been exploring measuring! We have measured lots of objects using our hands and our feet and then beginning to measure using things that are always the same size like cubes! Cherry class have been continuing their work on fractions!

We are really excited to see all of the children back to school on Monday morning! Thank you for all of your support with helping children to continue their learning at home.

## Years 3 & 4

Well we have come to the point where we can welcome back children into school as we re-open after lockdown. We are looking forward to seeing the children return to Sycamore, Chestnut and Maple respectively. We will be pleased to see everyone back in class and hopefully eager to participate fully in school life.

It has not been an easy time and we would like to thank all parents and carers for their support. We have enjoyed seeing the work that the children have sent in and it has been great being able to see work being done which mirrors what has been taught in school. This is quite an achievement at home and children have been able to keep learning for such a long time.

Please don't worry about drop off on Monday. Years 3 and 4 were excellent when they returned to school in September and we think they will be the same again! Speaking daily on Teams or a phone call home has significantly helped keep that important personal contact.

Enjoy the weekend and see you Monday!

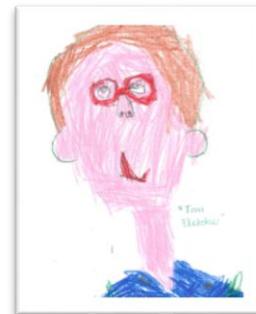
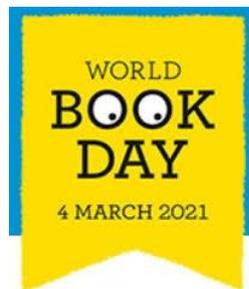
## Years 5 & 6

We have had quite a creative week this week in Years 5 & 6, researching The Day of the Dead, investigating ways of showing emotion in art, creating 2D and 3D versions of our skull design and finally creating a mood board in our sketch books.

In maths, Year 5 have continued work on fractions and arithmetic and Year 6 have worked on volume and circles. Maths has also linked to our class text, 'Holes', when Year 6 measured what a hole five feet deep and five feet in diameter would look like!

For World Book Day, many of us have worn orange, like the boys at Camp Green Lake. We have written informal letters from the main Character, Stanley, to his mum and dad. We have also written formal letters from Stanley to apologise for his crime.

We have enjoyed our time in our bubbles but we are really looking forward to welcoming the rest of Years 5 & 6 back to our classes on Monday.



“ All you can do in this life is **follow your dreams**. Otherwise, you're just wasting your time. ”

- David Walliams

## Asymptomatic testing information for parents and adults in households with children at school or college

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Test kits can either be collected or ordered online, as set out below. **You cannot get these tests from school.** Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free. Using this link will give further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

If you have any queries about the tests, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm. Children of primary school age (and below) without symptoms are not being asked to take a test. Testing is voluntary, but strongly recommended to all who are eligible. Alongside the vaccine, washing hands, wearing face coverings, and maintaining social distancing, rapid testing plays a vital role in reducing transmission rates. Getting into the habit of regular testing as part of our everyday lives will help us all to play our part and do what we can to protect each other.

## DfE Guidance on the use of face coverings in primary schools

Children in primary schools do not need to wear a face covering and they should not be asked to wear one. Dr Susan Hopkins, the Chief Medical Adviser for NHS Test and Trace, has said that “the consensus among educationalists, public health and clinical specialists is that it is not advisable for primary school children to wear face coverings. That is why Public Health England has not recommended to the Department for Education that they should be worn by primary pupils in the classroom. Children need to see facial expressions to develop their communication and language skills and practically, they can have difficulties keeping them on all day.”

### Nursery Open Events 2021

19<sup>th</sup> March / 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (1.30-2.15pm)

6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (8.30-11.30am)

10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (3.30-4.30pm)

18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (1.00-3.00pm)



Please contact the school office to arrange a 15-minute visit between the hours detailed above on 01543 421850 or email [office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk)

