



Newsletter Friday 19th March 2021



Message from Mrs Grainger

Another week has passed and I hope that your children are continuing to enjoy the return to school and a little more routine. There is a lovely buzz around the school with lots of children keen to chatter to their friends and catch up again. Speaking with the children; the overwhelming feeling is that they are delighted to be back.

We are finding that the children have adapted really well to being back in school and are working really hard. They have shown great resilience and although they were tired by the end of last week, a good week was had by all. The most important thing over the next few weeks is to allow the children time to reconnect and redevelop routines. It is important that they can socialise with their friends in school and that our younger pupils continue to develop their communication and language skills.

I sincerely hope that this will now be how we can operate and that any further lockdowns will be avoided. I'm sure that there will be bumps in the road and we may have identified cases in school that we have to deal with, but we will do everything we can to make sure the rest of the year is as smooth as possible for our pupils.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is an information sharing partnership between Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent educational settings (from Reception through to Higher Education) which allows schools to offer immediate support for children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. The letter sent previously has further details and information about this new cross-partnership initiative.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and our top priority. Anyone who comes into contact with children and their families has a role to play. A reminder of the Designated Safeguarding Leads for our school:

- Mrs Grainger (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mr Budge (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mrs Cadman (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)
- Mr Stevens (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead).

If you are worried about the safety of a child at any time, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. They can be reached through the school office on 01543 421850 or via office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk.

Isolating after a positive coronavirus (COVID-19) test

As schools return to full attendance, we understand parents' frustration when their child is asked to isolate at home either after testing positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), or because of being in close contact of someone who has tested positive.

However self-isolation is one of the most important things we can do to help stop the spread of the virus and help protect our friends, family and our community. Around one in three people with coronavirus (COVID-19) have no symptoms, and so finding and isolating these hidden cases quickly will help to stop outbreaks before they get a chance to develop.



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

Years 1 & 2

This week all of our classes in Key Stage One have been completing different theme activities!

Cherry class have had their week in the computer room and have been learning about digital writing. We have practised typing skills, where important keys are, such as the space bar and the enter button as well as how to change what the font looks like.

Apple class have been getting arty! We have been looking closely at animal prints and then drawing them onto polystyrene tiles. We then applied paint using a roller and used our tile to create prints into paper! We worked as a group to use our prints to fill in the outline of different animals.

Finally, in Elm class we have been completing lots of science activities based on animals. We have learnt about different habitats such as the desert, rainforests, oceans and the Arctic, exploring the plants and animals that live there and how they are suited to their environment. We also learnt that the plants and animals in particular habitats all depend on each other to survive.



Years 3 & 4

It has been a busy yet fun week in Years 3 & 4 again.

The children have taken re-entry into school in their stride and are now back into their regular routine. It has been super to see how everyone has been

helpful and kind to each other after the lockdown. We have 'discovered our fossils' by opening up our bread and jelly snakes experiment. The results were impressive and have given the children a real insight into the fossilisation process.

When Mrs Grainger came to the classroom, it was nice to hear Poppy in Year 4 give a beautiful explanation of her experiment's results. This included using some key vocabulary including: sand, sedimentary rock, pressure and fossilisation. The use of key vocabulary is something we give lots more emphasis to in all areas of the curriculum.



Years 5 & 6

Years 5 & 6 have this week focused on Geography during our theme lessons. We have looked at Mexico on a map, then located and plotted a variety of important landmarks. We have then learned about Biomes and identified which of these we would see in Mexico. Then we have specifically looked at the Chihuahuan desert.

In reading, we have continued to read our class text 'Holes'; in writing we have summarised information to create a comic strip and in maths we have continued with a range of arithmetic style questions.

Alongside all of this we have completed the majority of our termly assessments.

It's been a busy week!

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 6th May 2021

Friday 18th June 2021

Staffing

Please be aware that the new government guidelines mean some staff are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable. On-going self-isolation for staff due to their own need or needs of family members means there is a reality of us not having a full work force. We are therefore running with less than a full staff team at this time. The start of Lateral Flow Testing for staff in primary schools and households means there is also the chance, at short notice, of disruption to planned lessons or the need for bubble closures.

PLEASE DO HAVE A PLAN B IN PLACE FOR CARE OF YOUR CHILD IF CLASSES HAVE TO CLOSE AT SHORT NOTICE!

We appreciate your understanding of this matter. Thank you.

Easter Holiday Dates

School breaks up for the Easter holiday on Thursday 1st April at the end of the day and opens again for the Summer term on Monday 19th April 2021.



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