



## Newsletter Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021



### Message from Mrs Grainger

We continue to be grateful to you, our parent community, for your support and positivity. We all appreciate that for those of you who have your children at home full time, life is tough. The stresses, feelings of being pulled in every direction and trying to do your own work while helping your children with their work too is not easy - so thank you. We remain delighted at the learning we are seeing and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support. You are all doing a fantastic job.

You will have seen in the media that the Government has started to plan for a possible return to school. At this moment in time, 8th March is the date that is being suggested, provided that the vaccination programme continues to go as planned. I don't have any more information than this currently, and it is always the case that school hear the updates at the same time as the rest of the country does! I will update you about these plans when some more information is released but at least the return to school is hopefully on the horizon. We can't wait to get our school community back together again. Until the actual date for a return to school is confirmed, we will support all pupils and families with structured, balanced timetables of learning tasks and activities.

Please do ensure that you strike a balance between work-time and downtime, to get through this challenging period. Working in partnership with you is key. We are all in this together and realise from our own home experiences, we are under a lot of pressure and are really trying to do our very best! We'll get through this together by looking out for each other, sharing how we feel and being kind and generous.



### The Chadsmead Team

I cannot thank our team enough for the work that they have been doing this half term. As you can imagine, planning the curriculum content remotely for such young learners is incredibly complex. Staff have simultaneously managed the needs of learners – children in school and remotely, monitoring the bubble email and My Ed messages, and often working long into the evening and much of the weekend.

The staff team, have shown such dedication to continually learning, adapting, improving and enhancing the way in which they plan for and deliver learning. They have had to manage the regular changes in guidance and requirements from the Government, usually at very short notice.

Throughout all of this, they have had to work with their own anxieties about the virus, under a demanding risk assessment which requires constant focus on safety and hygiene in the school building, as well as look after and care for their own families too. A very big thank you to our truly remarkable Chadsmead team.

### Rapid Lateral Flow Test Update

Lateral flow testing for school staff started last week. We have been asked to do this to limit the spread of coronavirus in the community, as it will pick up any asymptomatic cases (currently estimated to be 1 in 3 people who are infected but do not have any symptoms). Please continue to check your MyEd messages each day just in case your class have had to close. Closed bubbles would switch to remote learning, which is already in place via the school website. Thank you all for your support and understanding during these trying times.

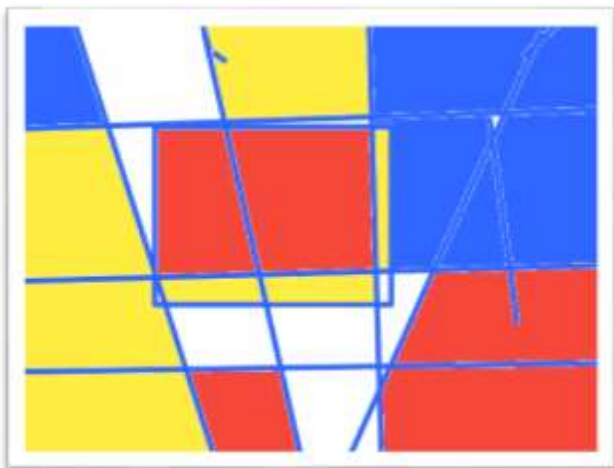
# curriculum

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

## Years 1 & 2

We have had lots of fun this week in Key Stage One completing our computing unit of work called Digital Painting. We have enjoyed exploring how to use the tools in different ways and when each one would be appropriate. We started off the week with our self-portraits and then explored how we could recreate pieces by Mondrian, Matisse and Kandinsky!

In English, we have been innovating the recount of the Great Fire of London by exploring synonyms for the verbs, we have talked about choosing powerful verbs to make our writing interesting. In maths, Elm and Apple have been exploring the place value of numbers to 50 and comparing numbers by think about how many tens or how many ones there are. Cherry class have continued their work on telling the time but in 5 minute intervals. Telling the time is a very important skill so keep practising this at home too!



## Years 3 & 4

We have worked hard this week in Years 3 & 4. There have been lots of challenges but it has been great to see how people have overcome these.

We have completed our final week learning about fractions. This is not an easy subject for many so I would like to thank you for all your efforts at home here. We understand that it is not easy trying to keep home school going along with lots of other essential roles.

We have enjoyed an experiment where we learned how far sounds travel. This involved using a 'trundle wheel' to measure distance away from a noise, as the noise faded away and we could no longer hear it.

Also, we have finished our work on information texts by writing about different styles of music. The children were amazed at how many different genres of music there are from the 20th Century.

## Years 5 & 6

Years 5 & 6 have had a very exciting week this week. We have dissected a heart! The children were able to get their hands on a real heart, dissect it and explore the chambers within it, tracking the journey the blood would take and finding all of the parts that we have learnt about previously. We have also completed an investigation exploring whether different types of exercise can affect our pulse rate.

In maths, Year 6 have learnt about percentages whilst Year 5 have learnt about fractions.

Everyone has worked on a dilemma story in writing and continued to read our text Pig Heart Boy.

We have also completed work related to Childrens' Mental Health Week.



## Pupil Wellbeing

## Wellbeing

School closure, isolation at home and other factors can cause anxiety and stress for children during this coronavirus pandemic. We have sourced some helpful websites that you may find useful to you and your children, please see below.

For relaxation and calming exercises for children please look at the Save the Children website:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/coronavirus/resources/learning-at-home/relaxation-exercises-to-do-at-home-with-your-kids>

The Cbeebies website have seven techniques for helping children keep calm:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/joinin/seven-techniques-for-helping-kids-keep-calm>

## February Half Term

Just a reminder that school will be closed over the half term break – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February with all remote learning ceasing during these 5 days as well.





## Could you be what we are looking for?

Do you have a desire to contribute to and represent the community?

Would you like to help make a positive contribution to children's education?

Could you use your workplace skills to promote the continuous improvement in the performance of the school?

Have you the ability to look at issues objectively?

**If so, then you may be just the person we need and the School Standards Committee (SSC) of Chadsmead Primary Academy would love to hear from you.**

### What do Governors do?

The role of a Governor is a strategic one, they work as part of a team setting the aims and objectives of the school, setting the policies and targets to meet these aims, monitor and evaluate the progress the school is making towards achieving its aims and objectives and providing a source of challenge and support to the Headteacher. Being a Governor can be very rewarding and will provide you with the opportunity to work as part of a team and gain new skills.

### What are we looking for?

Chadsmead Primary Academy's School Standards Committee (SSC) currently has a vacancy for a Community Governor to serve for a period of up to four years.

We are keen to hear from people with experience in human resource management or financial oversight but these are not mandatory requirements. We need self-motivated, determined and enthusiastic individuals who are willing to learn, the rest can be learnt through the Governor Development programme we offer, to help build your understanding and support your development as a Governor.

### What is the time commitment?

- 6 meetings a year, each lasting approximately 2 hours, there is an expectation to have read documents sent in advance for the meeting
- Monitoring Visits in school 2-3 times per year
- Governor professional development which includes, but not exclusive to, annual online Governor training to include Safeguarding, Prevent and GDPR and a Governor training event 1 x ½ day in the year
- Invitations to school events on an ad-hoc non-compulsory basis

### More about us

We are a happy, caring school where hard work and good behaviour are expected. We encourage children to develop their talents and seek excellence in all that they do.

Chadsmead Primary Academy became part of the Community Academies Trust (CAT) in September 2016. CAT has a track record of achieving and sustaining OUTSTANDING schools.

### How to find out more

More information on the role and application forms can be obtained either from the school office:

[office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@chadsmead.staffs.sch.uk)

or by post to:

Gemma Grainger, Headteacher, Chadsmead Primary Academy, Friday Acre, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7HJ

For more information about us, please visit our Website: <https://www.chadsmeadacademy.co.uk>

**We look forward to hearing from you!**