

Chenies School Newsletter

Friday 29th January 2021

Headteacher's News

Mental Health Week

Next week is children's mental health week and along with today's newsletter we have sent a letter about how we will be participating in this as a school. This will involve changes to next week's afternoon timetable and includes suggested activities that your child may enjoy doing either independently or as a family.

It is also important that as parents you continue to look after your own well-being and the book trust have shared some great tips from Child psychologist Dr Tina Rae for managing children's mental health, and our own, in uncertain times. You can find them [here](#).

Having spoken to a number of parents I am well aware that for many of you juggling the demands of work and home schooling is a significant challenge. I would like to reiterate the advice that I gave in the first lockdown and that is the most important thing your child needs at this time is to be happy and know that they are loved. Of course as a school we want the children to engage with the remote learning that we are providing but every family and every circumstance is different and I do not want parents to feel overwhelmed by the different demands placed on you at the moment. There is no need to feel guilty if your child does not complete everything in the way you think they should. We have learned from last term's experience that the majority of children were so grateful to be back in school that they worked harder than ever to make up for lost time and I am confident that this will continue when they return to school after this lockdown. Our teachers are highly trained professionals and just as we would not be able to do the many jobs you do, we do not expect you to be the perfect teacher. I also speak from personal experience when I say please remember that teaching your own children is far harder than teaching other people's!

Oscar's walk

In February Oscar is planning on walking 100 miles to [raise money](#) for charity (The Citizens Advice Bureau). This means that each day he will be going on quite a long walk after school, as well as longer walks during the weekends and half term. He has created an [animation](#) about his walk which I am pleased that he was happy for me to share with you in the newsletter. It is always good to share examples of how children at school are contributing to the wider community and I am sure you all join with me in wishing him well as he completes the challenge.



Happy Birthday

Anvitha – 30th January

Akram – 30th January

Amelia V-L – 31st January

Eve S – 4th February



Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to all of you who took part in last week's remote learning survey. We had 32 responses as follows:

Number of responses	Hepworth	Hockney	Monet	Van Gogh
	8	6	12	3

Has your child been able to access the home learning on Google Classroom?	Yes on a laptop or tablet	Yes but only on a mobile phone	No
	100%	0%	0%

Is your child enjoying the google meet sessions?	Yes	No
	90%	10%

Is it helpful to have the opportunity to access two sessions a day?	Yes	No
	90%	10%

How do you feel about the length of each session?	It needed to be longer	It needed to be shorter	It was about right
	12.5%	10%	78%

What do you feel about the quantity of home learning set?	There is not enough	It is about right	There is too much
	3%	84.5%	12.5% (1 from each class!)

I believe that the positive data above demonstrates that as a school we have listened to parental and pupil feedback following the lockdown last year and learned a lot from it. This has enabled us to improve our provision this term. Additional comments from the survey indicated to us that parents and children have appreciated:

- the google meets and face to face time with the teachers
- learning tasks being uploaded the night before
- storytimes
- the use of audio presentations

We are not complacent however and in response to some of your suggestions for improvements we will now be:

- Uploading to google Classroom a list of resources on a Friday that will be useful to have for the week ahead.
- Delivering daily storytimes during the afternoon google meets for all classes.
- Expanding our provision of opportunities for some smaller group work – to help us with this if your child finds a task particularly difficult and they would like some additional help with it please notify the teacher via a private message in google classroom. Children may then be grouped together and an extra session provided for some additional support.

I wish you all a good weekend.

Suzanne Powell

TERM DATES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020 / 2021

Spring Term 2021

Inset Day	Monday 4 th January
Term Starts	Tuesday 5 th January
Half Term	15 th – 19 th February
Term Ends	Thursday 1 st April @ 1.30pm

Summer Term 2021

Inset Day	Monday 19 th April
Term Starts	Tuesday 20 th April
Half Term	31 st May – 4 th June
Term Ends	Wednesday 21 st July @ 1.30pm