

CHANTRY NEWSLETTER

Confident, Caring, Creative

17th December 2020

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to update you with what's happening at Chantry and to belatedly send you my wishes for a happy new year. It has been a very different start to 2021, compared to the one we anticipated and we are all once again dealing with the challenges of lockdown, home schooling and managing our own and our children's anxieties around the pandemic.



As you are aware, this has been a challenging few weeks at Chantry. Unfortunately, we had an outbreak of Covid in one of our critical worker bubbles which led to a large number of staff and children having to self-isolate. The outbreak was a testing time and it is due to the vigilance of our staff in following social distancing and hygiene measures that the outbreak was successfully contained and didn't spread beyond the bubble. Thank you for all your messages of support, and for working with us closely in order for the rest of the school to remain open. We send our very best wishes to those staff who are still recovering from Covid and we hope that they will soon be back to full health.

Throughout the lockdown, we have continued to work closely with Public Health England and the local authority to ensure we are doing everything possible to keep the school safe for the children attending and our staff. This has been an anxious time for the whole school community and we are always happy to discuss the measures we have in place and the guidelines we are following; if you have any questions.

Remote Learning

Our remote learning is fully up and running and teachers are working hard to deliver the curriculum to their classes through online lessons and activities. We understand that getting to grips with online learning can be frustrating and we thank you for your patience. Lockdown has been a difficult time for children and we are trying to support them in the very best way we can - by making sure their learning isn't adversely affected by not being able to attend school.

We have learned lessons from the last school closure and I hope that you are finding the changes we have made helpful. It's important that children are completing the work that their teachers are setting on Seesaw (EYFS and KS1) and Google Classroom (KS2). There are many activities that children, particularly those in KS2 can access independently, as we appreciate that juggling work and home schooling is really difficult. Whilst we encourage children to complete all the activities set, we realise that this is not always possible. Teachers are online daily from 9am -3pm, supporting children with their learning and providing feedback. However, children can complete their learning activities at any time. If you need further support with remote learning or have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

One of the things we have improved from the first lockdown, is increased communication with all of our families. I hope that you are finding the phone calls, emails and doorstep visits helpful. The teachers have also appreciated the opportunity to talk to the children in their class and to you on a regular basis. We always welcome constructive feedback from parents about how we can improve our provision further, please email the office if you have any suggestions.

We recognise that this is an exceptionally difficult time for all of us and we want to support our Chantry families in any way that we can. If you are finding things difficult or you just want someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to contact us and we will do our very best to help.

Becky Reed