

# Headlines

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020



## Dear Parents,

We welcomed our second group of Chestnuts into Ongar this week and they had a lovely week. It was great to see them having their grand tour of the offices and meeting all our admin staff. Next week we will at long last be saying hello to our final group and the school will be full!

Other year groups have really embraced their learning this week and teachers have been busy assessing children (in quite a gentle way!) and finding out what they have remembered, what they have forgotten and what they have missed from last year.

The results were very pleasing and we now have a good idea of how we need to structure the curriculum and what interventions and help we need to put in. Well done to those children who kept up with their reading over the summer – it showed!

## COVID 19

Thank you for being so understanding as we all get our heads around the new government guidelines and the rules about coming to school. We are trying to take a measured approach that keeps everyone as safe as possible. If your child:

- Has a high temperature,
- Persistent dry cough
- Loses their sense of taste or smell

**do not send them into school.**

Inform the office. Take advice from 111 or 119 phone lines. Arrange for your child to have a test if advised to.

If your child has sickness and diarrhoea keep them off school for at least 48 hours or until they are better.

If your child is unwell with other symptoms keep them off school as you usually would.

Don't hesitate to speak to us for advice.

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## Curriculum

Hopefully Years 1 to 6 got a copy of the curriculum overview for your class last week and some details of when children are having PE. The whole year overview is now on the website for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. There is also a link to our PSHE curriculum.

## PE

From years 1 to 6 we are still not changing for PE, except for footwear. This is because we cannot separate and supervise boys and girls and we are trying to keep our cloakrooms as clutter free as possible. Your child just needs a pair of trainers in school. If your child would prefer to come to school in their PE kit on the days they have PE they are very welcome to.

In Reception Class, getting changed is an important part of learning and so they do need a PE kit.

## Dates

I haven't yet issued a list of dates for the coming term as at the moment we are unsure of what we can do and how we will manage all or even any the lovely events we normally arrange.

I am quite adamant that we should do as much as is reasonable in the current situation – children should not miss out on all the opportunities school gives them. We are busy working out how we can present you with an EYFS and Key Stage 1 Harvest celebration and possibly a nativity and carol concert. We are planning a Day of Languages, we're also arranging for children to make Christmas cards as usual and are hoping the PTFA will be able to run some of their events. We are also hoping to have parent's evenings on site in November. Further details of all of these will be available later.

## Healthy Snacks

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to school for break time. This should ideally be a piece of fruit and definitely not chocolate or crisps. KS1 and EYFS are given a piece of fruit each day from the government.

