

Headlines

25th September 2020



Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of week three in school I am so pleased with all the fantastic learning and activity that is taking place at Ongar. Children have well and truly settled into their new classrooms and adults and children are getting to know each other (if they didn't know each other already!)

It was lovely to welcome our third (and final) group of Reception children into Chestnuts. The classroom seems very busy but the children are all settling well and are finding their way around. Mrs Brill and Mrs Mount are working hard to ensure that children are happy and safe and making up for any learning they may have missed in nursery.



COVID update

Pick up and drop off

Thank you to everyone who continues to follow our rules to ensure that we are all as safe as possible. The new rules imposed by government this week have no major impact on school – we continue to work in the same way.

Face Masks

Guidance says face coverings do not have to be worn by adults in outside areas. So, at present, I will not be asking for them to be worn on school site at pick up and drop off. However, it is something you may want to consider for yourself given the number of people moving around. What I do ask is that parents move off the school site as soon as they have picked up or dropped off their children.

Teachers and children do not have to wear masks but we obviously have some in school if we need them for close contact (eg: if we were administering first aid or looking after a child with suspected COVID).

Closure

You will have seen in the local news that over 20 Surrey schools have had one 'pod' or more of the school closed because of a positive test. It seems inevitable that it will happen in most schools at some point. As Headteacher, I have a huge amount of documentation and support to guide me and I can assure you that, if required, I am ready to take swift action and will keep everyone as informed as possible.

School Development Plan:

It is important that we continue to focus on the future and concentrate on our children's learning and experiences. At our first governor meeting this year, Mrs Pirie, and I did exactly this with our wonderful governors. We spent time looking at the school development plan for 2020-2021. Our main development areas are:

- Establish a curriculum which addresses recovery, is appropriately broad and balanced and supports all pupils to be ready for the next stage of education.
- Determine and initiate an appropriate platform / system to deliver on-line learning for homework and emergency.
- Use appropriate assessment effectively to discover gaps created by closure and support the teaching of the curriculum.
- Continue to prioritise reading to develop fluency, confidence and enjoyment.
- Rebuild community wellbeing and provide support and signposting for children, staff and parents.

Governors

We are all looking forward to working together this year, with Mrs Sharpe and Mrs Ricketts remaining as our co-chairs and Mr Wotton as our vice chair. We are very sorry to be saying good bye to Mrs Monique Grace who has completed her four year term as parent governor. She has contributed much to our school and we will miss her input. It does mean that we will shortly have a vacancy for a parent governor and we will be sending out details of this.