



Charlton Kings Infants' School
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Weekly catch up from CKIS

Dear Parents,

As we continue to settle into a new way of life for now, I hope that you are all remaining safe and well. Whilst the weather has not been quite as glorious this week, at least our natural world has been grateful for some rain!! We would like to thank all of our wonderful children (and you) for the amount of learning and experiences that have been shared with their class teachers and friends via Padlet. It has been wonderful to see children communicating and celebrating their achievements together – keep up the great work! We are also aware that a number of children and families have taken up new hobbies or found new experiences to explore together. I was also pleased to hear from our cello teacher this week who has informed me that a number of Year 2 children who are having virtual cello lessons have achieved their 'cello beginner certificates'. Well done to you all!

We continue to be keen to ensure that we provide a balance of home learning resources and materials and thank Mrs Parsons particularly for all of her hard work in updating our home learning page on the website. There are a number of national resources and initiatives to support home learning, such as BBC 'Bite size' <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize> which we have linked to our website. I know that many children (including my own) have found these daily programmes and resources linked to specific age groups very useful. We have had lots of positive comments regarding our weekly phonics lessons provided for each year group and I'm sure many parents have expanded their knowledge of technical language such as 'digraph' and 'trigraph' whilst watching these lessons!!

Somewhere over the rainbow.....

This coming week we had planned a number of exciting events to mark the celebration of VE Day on 8th May. Mrs Hunt and Mrs Tyler had been working hard with our choir to learn a number of songs to sing at our local care homes. One of these was, 'Somewhere over the rainbow'! This is very apt at the moment as the rainbow has come to symbolise hope and reassurance to us all, particularly our children. Mrs Hunt has recorded the song and we will be uploading this on class twitter pages and class padlets from Monday 4th May. We would like to share a school song together and will use the song as an opportunity to 'come together' as children and staff. This has taken a few weeks to organise, but we would like all children to learn the song at home (and their adults should you wish to!) and if people would like to take a video and upload this to the class padlets, we would love to see our children taking part! Look out for our staff video that we will also be sharing towards the end of next week!!

Sharing your views:

During this term, we would usually be sending out our annual parent survey to gain your views regarding school strengths and 'even better ifs...' We find your feedback invaluable in informing our future school improvement planning. Given the present situation, we would like to invite you to complete our online survey which is asking for your views in the present climate; <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F885DQZ> Your feedback will certainly help us to consider which resources have been most useful whilst also helping us to take into account shared views regarding a transition back to school (when the time comes). We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by Friday 15th May.

Staff news:

We are delighted to announce that Mr and Mrs Tyler welcomed Katherine Elizabeth (Kit) to their family on Sunday evening. Both mother and baby are doing well, and we look forward to congratulating the family and meeting our new member of our school family when it is safe to do so. We are also pleased to announce that Mrs Turner is also expecting her second baby in September. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating both Mrs Turner and her family regarding this exciting news. Mrs Herbert (Y2 Teaching Partner) retired yesterday and sends her thanks to all within our school community for their kind wishes. We will certainly be celebrating her thirty years' service to the school once we return to some kind of normality!

'Foodbank' appeal for donations:

We have received the following message from the 'Cheltenham Foodbank' and I know that they would welcome any support that anyone is able to make:

It would be very helpful if you could encourage those who are able to continue making donations to the foodbank. Last year we helped feed, on average, 290 children and adults per month. The figure for last month was 574 people and for this month to 29 April, it was 872 people, an increase of 33%. This means we are having to dig into our reserves at an increasing rate. People can help in several different ways. They can:

- leave donated items at the foodbank donation point in their supermarket
- make a cash donation through the foodbank's website <https://cheltenham.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>
- take donations directly to the foodbank - we have extended our hours for this purpose to Monday-Friday, 9.30 to 3.00
- organise a community collection - for example, organising neighbours or members of an organisation to make a group donation.

We recognise that this continues to be a difficult time for many and would encourage those who need support to access this. We continue to update our coronavirus information page on our website; <https://www.ckis.org.uk/coronavirus> with information/links to support services. This week we have added the new 'Family Zone' newsletter from 'Move More' which gives lots of practical advice for managing stress and anxiety within families during lockdown. It's definitely worth a read!! For now, let's focus on the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and continue to celebrate precious time together! Do take care,

Mrs James x

