



Charlton Kings Infants' School
Lyefield Road East, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 8AY
Telephone: (01242) 514483



Head teacher: Katie James BA (Hons) QTS

Email: Head teacher: head@ckis.org.uk
School Business Manager: sbm@ckis.org.uk
Secretary: secretary@ckis.org.uk

7th May 2020



Weekly catch up from CKIS

Dear Parents,

Hello from all of us at CKIS! We hope that you all enjoy watching our short video: https://youtu.be/_B6-bFaT0Zk This has also been posted to all class Twitter pages and Padlet pages today. We hope that you have enjoyed learning the song 'somewhere over the rainbow' that Mrs Hunt has taught everyone this week. We can't wait to hear the results!

As we come to the end of week 7 of lock down, it is increasingly clear that whilst we are all facing the same storm, we are all in different boats!! Whilst some families are enjoying this special time together, we appreciate that for many, this prolonged period of time when we are restricted (like never before) in our movements, is causing increased stress and anxiety. This is particularly true where parents are balancing working from home with meeting the needs of their young children. I would like to take this opportunity once again to tell you all what an amazing job you are doing!



I know that there has been increasing pressure and worry for parents regarding 'home schooling' and I feel it is important to make the following clear. These are times that none of us have ever faced before and as we live through this global pandemic, we must realise that the world has changed and will continue to change. Our children are not missing out on their education, they are getting a 'different' education. They are learning the importance of being together, of exploring the natural world, cooking, sharing and exploring joint interests and continuing to build on the key learning that they have already mastered. I recognise that there are many resources and links that are available nationally and that these provide families with the opportunity to follow children's particular interests and can be used to add to the resources and links which we continue to update on a weekly basis on our home learning page of the website.

As a school, our priority for setting both home learning opportunities alongside how we have and will continue to make contact with our children and families during this period of school closure is based upon the following aims:

- To support children to continue their learning activities at home that are:
 - Not all linked to working on a computer – not all families have one or enough for each child in the family.
 - Prioritising our young children’s mental health and well-being (ensuring children feel safe and secure in their home environment)
 - Rehearsal/practice of knowledge or skills already learned.
 - Varied in terms of subject content or skills being developed.
- To maintain a level of communication between children and familiar adults at school.
- To ensure that we do not put additional pressure on families during this time.
- To ensure that we do not put undue pressure on teachers and their families during this time.
- To ensure that we do not contravene safeguarding guidelines, being particularly mindful of the age of our children.

As a result of the last three bullet points and the age of our children, we have made the decision not to use any online teaching platforms or virtual classrooms for this purpose.

Celebrating learning:

As intended, our class Padlet pages have been a fantastic and appropriate way in which to keep in contact with our children and families on a regular basis during this time. We recognise that not everyone has access to a computer or feels happy to communicate in this way and teachers have established other communication routes with these families. It has been wonderful to see all of the children’s happy faces, their exploration of our twice weekly projects and our children’s own investigations and creations. Here are a flavour of the range of learning that has been taking place at home and at school this week as together we explore the theme of heroes and famous people linked to our celebration of VE Day.



A typical day at home:

Our Infant School curriculum is broad and balanced and based upon play and practical learning opportunities. This is the KEY way in which our children learn at this stage of their development. Many of our parents have discussed the balance they have found useful during this time at home and I thought it might be helpful to share what we would consider to be an appropriate balance for our children at home during a typical day: This is of course, an optional example as we recognise that many parents may be juggling working or homeworking etc and that many people may have already settled into to a new routine that works for them.

9-10	Morning walk/activity/physical exercise
10-11.30	Challenge time: (Please refer to the home learning page on the website) Weekly phonics activities and shared writing opportunities and/or maths challenge (as appropriate for your child's age and stage of development). (these could be a mix of on-line and practical opportunities. We would suggest on-line time is limited to 30 mins)
11.30-12.00	Quiet time – reading and sharing books together, puzzles, board games, art & craft
12-1.00	Lunch and activities to help around the home
1-2.00	Afternoon walk/activity
2.00-3.30	Creative time – school project/areas of interest time
Bedtime	Enjoy a story together every day

Sharing your views:

Thank you to those parents who have already completed our parent survey and have identified what is going well alongside the 'even better ifs...' If you have not completed the survey, please do take five minutes to share your views:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/F885DQZ> The survey will close on Friday 15th May.

Financial support:

We recognise that for many of us these times have caused additional financial concerns due to uncertainty regarding job security and income. Earlier today we shared some information regarding the COVID19 Emergency Living Fund (a copy of which is available on our website). With the changing landscape, we recognise that many more people may now be entitled to claim for Free School Meals (in addition to Infant Free School Meals) due to changes in their financial situation. This money provides additional resources to the school to help your child with their learning and development. Families meet the criteria for applying if they are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

You can check whether you are eligible by applying on-line at:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

Thank you to those of you who have emailed with questions and queries or have requested support. Please continue to do so.

As we await further guidance from the Government over the next few days, please rest assured that we will continue to keep you informed of the developments (as soon as we know them ourselves and have the time needed upon which to act on them!)

Sending you all lots of love and reassurance



Mrs James



Infants' School, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under n 89749, registered office, Lyefield Road East Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 8AY.

