

**CHARLTON KINGS INFANTS' SCHOOL  
LYEFIELD ROAD EAST  
CHARLTON KINGS**

17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Dear parents and carers,**

We have enjoyed a busy and rewarding first few terms of the school year and I can hardly believe that it is Christmas again (where did that year go?!) Our YR children have settled quickly and are already confident and increasingly independent learners. Our children in Y1 and Y2 continue to be assets to our school and always strive to be the best that they can be, both in the way that they interact with each other, our environment and their learning.

**School news and achievements in Terms 1 and 2:**

**Our Curriculum and 'Continuous Provision' at CKIS:**

Since September, we have continued to build on the work that we started last academic year on re-designing and developing our school curriculum. Our curriculum has been designed to ensure a clear progression of knowledge, skills and understanding through focused themes and big questions. Our pupils' backgrounds, our culture and our climate for learning provide the following drivers that underpin all areas of our curriculum at CKIS:

- ***Mindfulness and learning behaviours*** - which help pupils to concentrate and focus and build resilience as learners
- ***Culture and Diversity*** - which help pupils to develop enquiring minds about the wider world
- ***Environment and Community*** - which helps to instil in our pupils a respect for our environment and for our local and wider communities
- ***Creative arts and physical development*** - which helps our pupils to express themselves and excel as holistic learners

**Improving standards in writing:**

During the first few terms we have continued to review our teaching and learning of phonics and spelling and have made enhancements in order to support the accelerated progress of all pupils. We are pleased that the children's presentation and handwriting skills continue to excel having introduced our cursive writing script throughout the school. We know that children who have a wide vocabulary and those that have a passion for reading are more confident to transfer these skills into their writing. We continue to build on our highly successful approaches to the teaching of reading to ensure that all children are supported to apply the skills of composition, spelling, grammar and handwriting in order to become confident and successful writers.

**Further promoting and embedding our inclusive practice:**

We continue to monitor each child's progress and attainment throughout the school, both on a daily and weekly basis through discussion with children and staff and through end of term assessments. We continue to monitor the impact of interventions for support where needed and have enjoyed whole staff training on brain development and ways to support children who demonstrate specific learning needs.

Since September, the children have loved exploring the 'missions' set by 'Jo Jo bear' with the launch of 'Commando Joes'. This provides children throughout the school with focused time through curriculum links and weekly opportunities to develop their skills of problem solving, resilience and team work. Our whole school themes since September have been 'Community' and 'Responsibility'. The children have loved competing against their class teachers to earn 'diamond power' when they have demonstrated responsibility for themselves, their belongings, the environment and their learning. Our themes during the next two terms will be; 'Acceptance and Difference' and 'Respect and Tolerance'.

We continue to work on developing our school based 'Forest School' provision and all of our children are actively involved in developing the forest environment and learning opportunities. We have also been lucky enough to secure some additional funding from our wonderful PFA to support our ongoing developments.

The children in Y1 and Y2 have also loved learning to play either the recorder or ukulele during their weekly whole class lessons and we look forward to sharing our learning and skills together in future celebrations. We are so proud of every child in the school and the care and consideration they continue to learn about and share with others. Since the beginning of the school year, we have demonstrated love and kindness to others by giving generously to the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Cheltenham Foodbank, the Shoebox Appeal, Odd Socks Day, Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal – thank you all for your generosity.

**12 Days of Christmas: Acts of Christmas Kindness:**

**No Child Left Behind** - The child poverty launch is in January 2019. About 20% of Cheltenham children are currently living in poverty. This figure increases to almost 35% in some of the wards across the town. Child poverty has been linked to decreased opportunities because of an increase in illness, obesity, exclusions, poor mental health and a decrease in aspirations within these groups. In 2019 we will be doing all we can to raise awareness of the issue of poverty on our doorstep. As schools across the town, we will be doing this through a programme of events where there will be a theme each month. We would like to start this by launching our 12 Acts of Christmas Kindness with the children – please see attached. We will be talking to the children next week about this and will ask them to discuss how they showed kindness to others during the Christmas break, when we return to school.

**'Move More' holiday provision:**

Following our survey last year which indicated that parents and carers would be interested in accessing holiday provision at our school, we are in discussion with 'Move More' to deliver holiday provision for children aged 3 – 7 years at CKIS. 'Move More' is registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which aims to improve the health and well-being of every child. CKIS already work in close partnership with the 'Move More' team who support both our curriculum delivery and after school provision. We are aiming to run a two week pilot during the Easter holidays with a plan to deliver ongoing holiday provision during school holiday periods. Please do look out for more information in the New Year!

**Parents' Consultations:**

Following feedback through our school survey last year, we shall be holding parent consultations during the months of February and May. The dates for our parent consultations in February are Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>. Our on-line booking system will be open between 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January.

**Voluntary contribution:**

Thank you to those parents who have made their voluntary contribution and also completed their gift aid declaration. This enables us to continue to provide exciting enrichment activities for the children that we would not normally be able to fund from our reduced school budget.

For those parents who have not yet informed us of their chosen way in which to make their contribution, the donation can be made in the following ways. For parents of children in receipt of the Pupil Premium grant, there is no need to make a voluntary contribution.

One off payment	£40
Monthly donations	£4.00 per month (Sept – June)
Pay as you Go	A letter at that time will detail payment requirements

The following details to make payments to school can be set up with your bank by either visiting your local branch or logging on to your bank account through internet banking.

**Charlton Kings Infants' School**  
**Sort code: 30-91-87**

**Account no: 51478968**  
**Ref: Your child's full name**

## Staff news:

Miss Corner became Mrs Turner during the October half term and I know that you will join us in wishing Mr and Mrs Turner the very best for their future lives together. We were also delighted to hear of the safe arrival of baby Olivia, a gorgeous daughter for Miss Weyman and her partner. We are looking forward to meeting Olivia very soon! We are so pleased that Miss Smart has joined our school family as class teacher for Green class during Miss Weyman's maternity leave.

<b>Team:</b>	<b>Lead practitioner:</b>	<b>Key person and Teaching Partners:</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Mrs Topuz	Mrs Tacey, Mrs Russell, Mrs Coombe, Mrs Manocha
	<b>Class teacher:</b>	<b>Teaching Partners:</b>
<b>Reception</b>	Miss Maclachlan and Mrs Tayler (Yellow class) Mrs Jones and Mrs Ballard (Red class) Miss Muskett (Blue class)	Mrs Matthews Mrs Ralph Mr Mason
<b>Year 1</b>	Mrs Parsons (Orange class) Mrs Tyler and Mrs Fox (Purple class) Miss Smart (Green class)	Mrs Simpkin and Mrs Driscoll Mrs Pritchard and Mrs Donaldson Mrs Nevin
<b>Year 2</b>	Mr Owens and Mrs Turner (Magenta class) Mrs Koller and Mrs Morgan (Indigo class)  Mrs Hunt and Mrs Turner (Violet class)	Mrs Jeffree and Mrs Ertughrul Mrs Herbert, Mrs Angrave and Mrs Duverger-De-Cuy Mrs Donaldson and Mrs Miller
<b>MDSAs</b>	<b>Supervisors:</b>	<b>MDSAs</b>
	Mrs Ertughrul Mrs Crowley	Mrs Patil Mrs Evans Mrs Glendon
<b>Administration</b>	<b>School Business Manager:</b>	<b>Administration team:</b>
	Mrs Marquess	Mrs Storey – Receptionist/Admin M-W Mrs Sales – Receptionist/Admin Th-F Miss Scrivin – Finance Administrator
	<b>Caretaker:</b>	
	Mr Jeffree	

## Updates to our Attendance policy:

We have recently updated our Attendance policy and procedures. This is available on our website, please do take the time to familiarise yourself with the contents of the policy for your own reference. Please can I take this opportunity to remind you that school starts promptly at 8.50 am and that children miss out on important lessons first thing if they are late to school. Any request for absence during term time should be made in writing to myself for consideration. Absences will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances (please refer to our policy for an outline of the exceptional circumstances considered).

## School Funding in Crisis:

We wanted to highlight to you the serious and ongoing concerns that we have about school funding. In recent years, it has become apparent that current budgets are unsustainable. In 2011/12 we received £974,373 from central government, £959,788 in 2017/18 and £951,296 this year. Since 2011/12 we have seen a reduction in our school budget of £23,047 which equates to 2.3%, despite our costs continuing to rise. Gloucestershire is one of the poorest funded local authorities in the UK and we are now facing a serious situation with many schools now struggling to provide the core entitlement for every child to access the highest quality education. Our education authority is now under very serious financial pressure, which ultimately could affect every child in every school. Funding pressures are being felt across all phases and in all schools, not just in our school. Gloucestershire Association of Head teachers have been meeting with leaders within the LA and local MPs in order to raise these serious concerns (please see attached letter from

GAPH). During this festive period, we would be delighted if you would consider writing to your local MP in order to raise your own concerns about the crisis in school funding (see attached suggested template). Thank you so much for your continued support. It's lovely to continue to receive your feedback regarding the developments we are making, and I am so proud of our wonderful CKIS team (children, parents, staff and governors). On behalf of all of the governors, staff and children at CKIS may I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Best wishes

Mrs Katie James

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. James". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Head teacher