

The Archer

School Newsletter NO 7

Dear Parents/Carers

We are rapidly approaching the end of Term 3, one of the most challenging terms we have all had to contend with!

Home Learning

Thank you to everyone who has done an amazing job in supporting home learning. I fully appreciate how challenging this has been, particularly for those trying to balance working from home alongside home learning and managing the usual household issues.

Providing home learning has been equally challenging for schools. From being told we would not shut to the announcement of Dartford schools being subject to interim measures and having to close from Monday 4th January was a shock for us all.

We had four days including New Year's Eve and New Year's Day to set up home learning, ascertain those requiring critical worker placements, call all parents of children deemed vulnerable to offer places and to organise staffing to provide face to face teaching for all the identified children. Collectively, I believe, between home and school, we have done a very good job in very challenging circumstances.

I have enjoyed reviewing the children's work and sending home 'well done' postcards to lots of children who have engaged so well with the home learning process.

Severe weather

Despite the severe weather and the substantial distances some staff travel to work each day, I am very appreciative of the efforts made to keep the school open for the benefit of our vulnerable and critical worker children. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes, particularly by Mr Ralph and Mr Handley to ensure the site is safe.



CRITICAL WORKER PLACES

The purpose of school closures has been to reduce the number of contacts children, parents and teachers have, thereby reducing the rate of transmission of COVID-19 in the community and therefore supporting local NHS services who have been in danger of being overwhelmed and leading to very high daily death rates.

I am very appreciative of the parents who have only taken up critical worker places for the days and times required, along with some who have not taken up places at all, despite qualifying, but recognising the spirit and intention of the lockdown. I am also very appreciative of the teachers, TA's, administration staff, midday supervisors, caretakers and cleaners who have put their own health at risk by providing face to face support.

I am also aware of the very small minority who have abused this status and have celebrated this via social media.

Foodbank Donations

A big thank you from Reverend Laura Faturoti from Christchurch, for the kind and tremendous support from the Wentworth Family with food donations to the Dartford Foodbank. If you wish to donate any non-perishable foods, please drop them in the front porch at 102 Chastilian Road.

Our thanks to Laura for the fantastic job she's doing to support so many vulnerable families.

Many, many thanks.

Term 4 – Class arrangements from w/c 22nd February 2021

Our critical worker/vulnerable children bubbles will be staffed as follows after half term:

W/C 22.2.21

**EYFS Miss Skipp
Harrison**
Year 1 Mrs Margrave
Year 2 Mrs Randall
Year 3 Mrs Connolly
Year 4 Mrs Turner
Year 5 Miss Dear
Year 6 Mrs Archibald

W/C 1.3.21

Mrs Britten/Mrs
Miss Westbrook
Mrs Potts
Mrs Baker
Mrs Franklin
Miss Kerridge
Mrs Coulson

Thank you for all your messages of appreciation and support, they have been very well received by a very hardworking and committed staff.

I hope you all manage to have an enjoyable and restful half term.

Best wishes

P Langridge
Headteacher

Term 4

Further Government announcements regarding the possible re-opening of schools on March 8th are due to be made in the coming weeks. I receive these announcements at the same time as parents. I will publish our response to any necessary changes from these announcements as soon as possible to ensure you are informed in a timely manner.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

I would like to thank everyone connected with the school who has donated their spare/redundant laptops, tablets and iPads. We have worked with our IT support service ATS to have these cleared of data and have distributed them to our children who do not have access to such devices.

These have been greatly appreciated.