News from Cumnor School

Autumn Term Number 8 ***6th November 2020***

Dear Parents,

With the whole country now in a second lockdown, you will be pleased to know that the decision has been made to keep the schools open this time and we continue to follow the government guidance to keep everyone safe in the same way we did in Term 1. I know that you appreciate that it is a tricky balance to run a school at this time; ensuring the health and well-being of our staff and children whilst also making sure that the children continue to have the best possible education we can offer them. The one thing we want to avoid, if at all possible, is the closure of any class. With the prevalence of Covid-19 clearly very high once more, (most secondary schools have had to enforce partial closures and many primaries are now having to do the same) we must ensure that the safety of our staff, children and families is at the forefront of all we do.

The biggest concern I have at the moment is that of parents and children coming into contact with one another whilst coming to, and going from, school. The new lockdown emphasises the fact that transmission is mainly caused through social interactions between different households. (Interestingly it has been pointed out that the school run is now one of the only activities where large numbers of adults can mix – 150 families at once in our case.)

In order to help minimise the risk of any transmission of Covid-19 amongst the school community, and to ensure all classes remain open, please could you help by:

- Arriving between 8.35 and 9.00am – especially no earlier than 8.35 (if people arrive early and have to wait, parents will naturally interact with one another and children will break their class bubbles and play with each other. Similarly do not arrive before 3.00pm.

- Ensuring your children do not play with each other at the start or the end of the day. We have gone to great lengths to ensure no cross-class interaction during the school day, the effect of which is totally undone and makes our work nonsensical if families then go against the national guidance and mix after school.

- Remembering to socially distance from one another and wear face covering on the school site if you are able to. The Centre for Disease Controls states “it’s important for everyone to practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people) and wear masks in public settings.

Thank you again for all your support. I know it is a hugely difficult and stressful time for so many of us. Now more than ever, we must work together, support one another and remain positive.

Parent / Teacher Meetings

I hope you have been able to log on to your Scopay account and have booked up a slot for our virtual parents teacher meetings next week. Attached to this email you will find a document which guides you through the technical aspects of logging on and joining your meeting. Please do make sure you stick to your times accurately – with virtual meetings there is no flexibility for teachers to go over their times, so similarly don’t be offended if you get cut off at the end of your session! If anything does go wrong, the technology fails or emergencies arise, please don’t worry. If you end up not being able to make your session then just get in touch with the teacher at a later date (they won’t have time to help trouble-shoot during parents evenings) and they will get back to you with either a new date and time or a phone call.

Hill End Trip
We had our final Hill End 'Well Being Day' today for our Year 1 class. Although cold, it has been glorious sunshine for them and so they have had such fun. (Much better than the torrential downpour of a day when they were due to go before half term). Photos will be on the website next week**.**

Church Message - Remembrance Sunday - Here's what's happening
Owing to the pandemic, and following discussions with the Cumnor branch of the Royal British Legion there will be no public service at the war memorial this year.
We have held a private ceremony with representatives of the British Legion, Parish Council and Scouts. During this the names of the fallen were read and wreaths laid and the two minutes silence observed. Footage from this will be shown as part of our online service for Remembrance Sunday. The service includes a 2 minutes silence at 11am.
We're also inviting everyone to stand on their doorsteps at 11am on Sunday 8th and observe a socially distanced 2 minutes silence. The last post and reveille will be sounded at Cumnor War Memorial to mark the start and end of the silence.
Join us at 10:30am on Sunday morning at https://cumnor.org/remembrance-2020/

Next week's Lunch Menu:

Week 2	Chicken and Sweetcorn Pizza OR Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice Jacket Wedges Sweetcorn, Carrots Strawberry Jelly Pot	Chicken Burger in a Roll and Chips OR Quorn Dippers and Chips Crudities Fruit Flapjack	Homemade Sausage Roll OR (V) Sausage Roll New Potatoes Green Beans, Carrots Sticky Toffee Pudding with Custard	Lasagne OR Vegetarian Lasagne Broccoli, Sweetcorn Chocolate and Orange Cupcake	Fish Fingers and Chips OR Fishless Fingers and Chips Peas, Baked Beans Ice Cream Tub

What's my child been doing this week?

Reception	Creating firework and bonfire pictures, learning about one more and one less of a number and talking about Remembrance Day.
Year 1	Working with teen numbers, finding out about motte and bailey castles and having a wonderful time at Hill End.
Year 2	Making 3d fireworks, writing poetry and singing outside in small groups.
Year 3	We have been writing reports about the Anglo-Saxons, learning and practising our 4 and 8 times tables, and playing small sided football matches.
Year 4	Using formal methods for multiplying, leaning about significant events in the 20th Century and developing our netball skills.
Year 5	Starting to learn the structure of a balanced argument by mapping and learning, learning about the key features of the rainforest biome and evaluating our truffle project.
Year 6	Solving problems involving time, taking part in a virtual visit from I.M.P.S, shared reading of 'Orphans of the Tide'.

Yours sincerely,

Ed Read