

COLDWALTHAM, ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

with Chuckleberries Pre School

Tel: 01798 872196

Fax: 01798 875532

Email: office@coldwalthamschool.com

www.st-james-coldwaltham.w-sussex.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Gibson

Head of School: Mrs Lizzie Martin



Learn, Discover, Achieve

Friday Flyer – 22nd December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first Friday Flyer of 2021! These are not the circumstances that I thought that I would be sending it under – who could have predicted that we would immediately be put into lockdown and the schools be closed to the majority of children? I understand and sympathise with how difficult the last two and a half weeks have been for you all as parents/carers; undertaking home learning with the children has been a challenge for them, for you and for us as a school too.

**HOME
LEARNING**

May I take this opportunity to say thank you to our whole school community for the overwhelmingly positive and encouraging response you have given to the partial school closure and home learning.

I cannot commend the teachers highly enough for their commitment to continuing to provide a high-quality learning experience for our children. I know how hard they are working throughout days (and evenings!) to ensure that they are providing an excellent set of learning resources for your children whilst also being available to communicate with parents/carers and children outside of school. They are also maintaining contact with those in school.

St James' is blessed to have a superb team of support staff who have been continuing to work tirelessly to ensure the school continues to operate smoothly. Our TAs are in school every day to supervise and support the children who are attending. They are doing a fantastic job in implementing the home learning within school and are providing the children with a safe and nurturing environment in which to learn at this time. Our caretaker is in every day working on site to maintain the safety and cleanliness of the school. Our office staff are continuing to work to ensure the school operates smoothly and are absorbing extra tasks created by lockdown as well as continuing with their normal duties.

For all the school staff, balancing their work with the needs of their own families has been a challenge but they have risen to this amazingly; I am very proud to work with such a dedicated team.



My final praise and expression of gratitude though is for you as parents/carers of our wonderful children. You are working tirelessly with your children to ensure that the home learning is being carried out and I am immensely grateful for this. The work that I have been seeing from my own class and from the other classes has been marvellous and it is clear to see how supportive, hard-working and dedicated you are being to implement the home learning.

St. James' very often is described as being a 'family' and I have never felt this more so than now; our 'family' is pulling together to ensure that the emotional and learning needs of the children in our care are being met. My deepest and sincerest thanks are being sent to you all.

St. James' Family News

Many of you will have probably been wondering whether the stork has landed at a certain St. James' teacher's door. We are very, very excited to announce that Mrs Watt did indeed receive a visit from the stork on 11th January who delivered a beautiful baby girl weighing exactly 8lbs!

This gorgeous bundle of loveliness has been named Maisie Elizabeth Watt and both Mum and daughter are healthy and doing well. I believe Dad is ok too!

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Mr and Mrs Watt and hope that they are enjoying their first weeks with Maisie. Having your first baby is never easy, but, in the current circumstances, it must be even more a challenge! We look forward to being able to see Maisie (and her Mum!) for cuddles when it is safe to do so!



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

You may remember back in November that the school participated in the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal as part of the Remembrance commemorations.

We have been informed by the representative from the British Legion that, through your generosity and kindness, the school raised £210.90. This is an absolutely phenomenal amount and I am proud to be part of a community who show such tremendous support and respect for this very special commemoration. Thank you so much.

Individual School Photographs

Individual school photographs of your lovely children were taken in December and it should have been possible to order in January. Understandably, it is not possible for parents/carers to order photographs at the moment but the proofs will be available once the children return to school...whenever this may be!

Free School Meals

We understand that there has been some confusion relating to the Free School Meal food packages and voucher scheme for children out of school.

The scheme is only available to children that have **qualified for 'Free School Meals'** which is a means-tested entitlement. The children who qualify for this will be receiving vouchers shortly.



This is **different** to Universal Free School Meals; all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a hot lunch through a government funded scheme which does not depend on your household income or whether you receive any benefits. **If you have not had to submit an application form at any stage for your child/ren's hot lunches, your child/ren is not eligible for the voucher scheme during lockdown.**

Support During Lockdown from West Sussex County Council

West Sussex County Council have asked us to remind families that anyone who needs support during lockdown can contact the Council's Community Hub, which is there to provide help and support during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Community Hub gives practical support and information to anyone adversely affected by Covid-19, which could include the provision of food and essential household supplies. Contact is totally confidential and available 7 days a week, 8am-8pm. Please visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub or call 0330 222 7980 for further information.



Family Support Work

Family Support Work raise funds to help families in the diocese who may be struggling, particularly during the current pandemic restrictions. If you feel you would like some additional help, financial or otherwise, you can contact them via the details below. Alternatively, you are welcome to contact us at school, and we will be happy to make contact on your behalf.



Family Support Work - Tel: 01273 832963

Website: www.familysupportwork.org

Email: admin@familysupportwork.org.uk

Information about the Compass Card Scheme for Children with SEND

The [Compass Card](#) scheme is for children and young people with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities living or going to school in West Sussex.



The Compass scheme is run in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove by the charity [Amaze](#). It includes the West Sussex Disability Register (a statutory duty for West Sussex County Council) and a free leisure discount card for all children and young people on the Register.

The Disability Register is for 0 to 25 year olds who have an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan) in school/college or are eligible for DLA/PIP. Other children and young people, who have a disability that has a major effect on their daily living, may also be eligible. Data from the Register is used to inform and shape SEND services.

When families register (for free) on the Compass scheme they receive a discount card giving access to leisure activities for local disabled children and young people (at 300+ venues in non-Covid times). [It Gets Me Out](#), an independent evaluation of the West Sussex Compass Project by the University of Brighton in May 2020, demonstrates that the Compass Card significantly improves children and young people's physical fitness, mental health, and confidence.

The organisers of the Compass Card scheme request that more children and young people with SEND represented on the disability register so that their voices are heard and needs are 'counted' by service providers and commissioners as they are making

tough budget decisions in coming months. The Compass currently records 40% of those CYP eligible to be registered.

The administrators of the scheme can produce reports across a range of data areas, eg school, disability type, care needs, services families currently receive/feel they need, siblings/family situation, housing type, diversity profile etc.

With times being so tough and thresholds to access services increasingly high, the Compass provides a great universal 'health and wellbeing' offer, when organisations may otherwise struggle to identify other services to refer SEND families to.

Please contact Amaze if you would like more information.

Amaze | Community Base, 113 Queens Road, Brighton BN1 3XG

Tel: 01273 234020 | Mob: 07484 051755 | marie@amazesussex.org.uk | amazesussex.org.uk

For independent information, advice and support, please contact our helpline on 01273 772289

or sendiass@amazesussex.org.uk

As you can see, the final few items in our Friday Flyer have been about the support that is available to people. This is not an easy time to be living through and it is important to remember that, even though we are socially distanced, we are not alone. Do reach out for help and support if you feel that you need it – there are kind and good people everywhere who will help. At this time, if we can be anything, we must all remember to be kind...not only to others but to ourselves too. You are all doing a fantastic job; remember how amazing you are!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Martin
Head of School

Important Dates for your diary:

Monday 15 th to Friday 19 th February 2021	Half Term
Monday 22 nd February 2021	Inset Day
Thursday 1 st April 2021	Term Ends
Monday 19 th April 2021	Term Starts
Monday 31 st May to Friday 4 th June 2021	Half Term

Rother Valley Expert Parent Programme



Does your child have SEN? Or are you waiting for a diagnosis?

This is a FREE online workshop for parents of SEND children, where you will....

- Meet other parents with SEND children
- Learn *how* local services work in the Rother Valley
- Learn *how* to improve communication with professionals
- Learn the *importance* of feeding back and raising concerns
- Find out *how* to get support as a parent carer

Find out more at our online coffee morning:
Wednesday 27th Jan 9:45am-10:15am

This two-part online workshop will be held on:
Fridays 12th & 26th March 10am-midday
Children are welcome.

Contact sarah.lambert@wspcf.org.uk for more information