

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

with Chuckleberries Pre School

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Learn, Discover, Achieve

Friday Flyer - 25th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here we are at the end of June and, yet again, it feels as though I am having to say that it has not been quite the month that we thought it would be. With the final easing of restrictions being delayed, I share the same sense of frustration that many of you have and also feel keenly the apparent inconsistency of standards in social distancing that have been brought into sharp focus this week!



I would like to extend my gratitude to you for the manner in which you are continuing to support the school with the measures and arrangements that we are required to put in place. By assisting us in this way, you are helping to keep not only our school family safe but also the wider community. Please be reassured that any decision made at the school always has the children and the families of St. James' at heart; sometimes those decisions will not be what everyone wants and I am sure that my name has not been the most popular in some households recently! However, I do hope that you can trust that, when we are able to make changes, we will do so in a timely and measured way.

COVID-19 update

There have definitely been some coughs and colds spreading amongst children and staff this week; 'the catch it, bag it, bin it, kill it' policy has been in full force across the whole school! We are very grateful to those parents/carers who have been alert to any suspected symptoms of Covid-19 in their children and would like to thank those who have booked and arranged tests for children. We are pleased to say that there have been no positive test results and children have been able to quickly return to school once negative results were confirmed. Staff continue to test bi-weekly using lateral flow devices which mean that, although asymptomatic, should an issue arise, we would be able to address it swiftly. There have been many reports of schools in the local area whose bubbles have 'burst', sadly leading to closures of classes, year groups and whole schools. Your vigilance in following advice regarding testing is appreciated as we very much would like our bubble to remain floating and in tact!

Attendance

Congratulations to all the children who were awarded attendance certificates last week. It is very encouraging that thirty-eight children achieved 100% attendance from the date that schools returned to the start of half term. Many children have been above the national benchmark for 'good' attendance which is 96%. Please do note that attendance



figures discount any absence due to self-isolation for Covid-19 symptoms or the period whilst waiting for a PCR test result. I am aware that celebrating attendance for some is a thorny issue and appreciate that there are times when some absence is unavoidable. However, we want to celebrate the fact that the children are in school as they should be and are developing a positive attitude to good attendance...and resilience on the days when they might not really fancy being there!

Tokyo Olympics Dance Workshop

Last Tuesday was a day the children very much enjoyed being in school! All the children took part in a dance workshop with Jacqueline from West End in Schools. They danced their way through all the Olympic sports and incorporated them into a final performance which included elements of Japanese culture, the "robot" and singing the British national anthem. It was a joy to watch the children participate so enthusiastically and to see them throwing themselves into the dance. I was particularly proud of Yew Class who were able to articulate their knowledge of the history of the Olympic Games to Jacqueline which they have been learning about in class (not that I am biased, of course!) All the classes did brilliantly and we hope to invite West End in Schools back in the future to do more dance- and drama-based activities to support learning.





Sports Day – Friday 9th July 2021

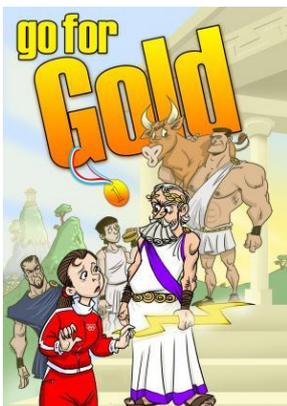
Sports Day is scheduled for the afternoon of Friday 9th July, with a reserve date of Friday 16th July in case of poor weather. Mrs Holt (our PE Subject Lead) has been working with Matt and Joe from 1:1 P Coaching to develop a fun and exciting programme for the afternoon.



As mentioned previously, we will be having a whole-school picnic prior to the Sports Day at 11.30am. Please can all children bring a packed lunch to school that day; for those children in receipt of FSM, there will be a meal provided by Chartwells for them. However, please do feel free to send your child in with a packed lunch from home if you would prefer.

Young Voices – The Biggest Sing

You may remember that Elm and Yew Class were taking part in this event to support Children’s Mental Health Week. The children enjoyed learning the words and the signs for the song “Lovely Day” and, at 2pm on Tuesday 15th June, they were part of a choir of 362,229 people all singing and signing simultaneously in what was also a World Record attempt. There has not yet been an official announcement to tell us whether a World Record was set but we will keep you posted as soon as we hear.



Production News – Go For Gold

The children are continuing to rehearse for their summer production enthusiastically and with gusto, even though it has been, with regret, necessary to scale back the performances.

The children will be performing on the afternoon of Tuesday 13th July to a small and select audience but I am sure that it will still be a big production! As mentioned earlier, if there is any possibility that we may be able to invite any parents/carers to watch, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Whole School Art Week – 5th to 9th July 2021

We are looking forward very soon to a week of art focusing on the topic 'Summer in Coldwaltham'. We will be using the local environment as inspiration for individual pieces of art using sketching and watercolour painting skills. Some of the children's work will be featured in an exhibition at Petworth Pop-up Art Festival from 14th to 17th July 2021 (see here for more information: <https://www.petworthfestival.org.uk/arts-society.html>) as well as every child's art work being included in our own Art Exhibition in September – details about this will be given soon.



For the Art Week, please could parents/carers supply either an apron or old oversized shirt for their child to wear whilst painting. The apron/shirt needs to be named and will be kept in school for the week. Any more details concerning Art Week will be communicated by class teachers via the class email addresses.

Whole School Transition Afternoon – Wednesday 21st July



As you will have seen from our letter last week, we are very pleased that St James' is increasing to four classes from September, with the creation of a new dedicated Early Years class for our youngest children. We are thrilled to have an amazing staff team to support this including some familiar faces and some new ones! To support the children in adjusting to these changes, they will have a transition afternoon on Wednesday 21st July when they will spend some time with their new class teachers. For some children, their teacher may not be

changing but it will be a time to be able to talk about some of the changes that will happen and to experience a taste of the learning that is planned. There are exciting times ahead and I am very much looking forward to seeing St. James' develop and grow as a school.

Record of Achievements and Parent Consultations

As promised in the previous Friday Flyer, Parent Consultations have not been forgotten! Following annual reports being emailed to parents/carers on Friday 9th July, Parent Consultations will be held via Zoom in the week beginning Monday 12th July should any parent/carer wish to take up that opportunity. Please see the letter that was sent with this Friday Flyer for more details about this.

Uniform

May I politely remind all parents/carers that the children should be wearing full and correct school uniform at all times, both everyday uniform and PE Kit. There have been a number of children wearing trainers (on non-PE days) and other items that are not school uniform (some strangely coloured socks and choices of trousers, in particular!) Unless there is a specific reason or exceptional circumstances as to why the children are unable to wear uniform (e.g. an injury, washing appliances broken, financial hardship, etc.), there is an expectation that uniform requirements will be met. Please do make contact with your child's class teacher or the Office if there is a reason why you feel the children need to wear items that are non-school uniform.

Church Lane Reminders

The location of St. James' in a beautiful, rural and quiet area is one of our greatest advantages – all of us are very blessed to have such a gorgeous location to come to every day for work and learning. However, being tucked away up a country lane does also bring with it some challenges and I find myself in the position of having to address a couple of concerns that have been raised about Church Lane.

Cars using Church Lane at drop-off and pick-up times

As has been reinforced many times in Friday Flyers, the only cars which should be driving up the lane at drop-off and pick-up times are those used by parents/carers with Blue Badges, by arrangement with the school following discussion or if parents/carers have a private parking arrangement with residents. Thank you to all the parents/carers who are respecting this and parking elsewhere; we really do appreciate your support.

If you are a parent/carer who falls under the categories of exception, may I politely remind you that Church Lane is a public highway used by residents, service and emergency vehicles at all times. If you are not coming in to the school to use the designated disabled parking space, please ensure that you park in such a way that does not impede other vehicles being able to drive up or down the lane or would prevent an emergency vehicle from being able to access buildings along the lane. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Behaviour of children along Church Lane

It has been brought to my attention that the behaviour of some children along Church Lane before and after the school day may be causing some upset to members of the wider community. Whilst fully recognising that children are the responsibility of parents/carers when on Church Lane at these times, the school has a duty to respond to any concerns the wider public may have about the behaviour of children beyond the school gate who attend the school (see Appendix 5 of the St. James' Behaviour Policy which can be found at <https://www.st-james-coldwaltham.w-sussex.sch.uk/Parents/Policies/>)

The particular behaviour brought to my attention is the way in which some children are behaving in St. Giles' graveyard. Whilst I appreciate that it is very tempting to let the children run into the graveyard to play, please may I remind you that graveyards are sacred places, not playgrounds. Seeing children running over graves and jumping on gravestones can be highly upsetting and distressing for some members of the wider community and certainly does not show respect for the fact it is consecrated ground.

When surveying parents/carers regarding behaviour, respect was one of the core values that you felt was most important for children to learn and to have. As a school, we promote and encourage this at all times. May I respectfully ask you that as parents/carers, you continue to promote this with the children when arriving at and leaving the school along Church Lane and that children are encouraged to not go into the graveyard to play.

Thank you for your support regarding both of these matters along Church Lane. As I said, we are fortunate to be in such a secluded and beautiful location but we do need to be mindful that this lane is still a public highway and, as such, we need to ensure that the school community plays its part in being respectful of that.

With four weeks left in the school year, there will be two further Friday Flyers – I look forward to being able to share with you more lovely news about what is happening in school and bring you updates about how we will be moving forward in September. In the meantime, I wish you a very happy and productive fortnight!

Kind regards,

L. Martin

Mrs L Martin
Head of School

Important Dates for your diary:

Monday 5 th July to Friday 9 th July	Whole School Art Week – please send in a named apron/old oversized shirt
Friday 9 th July 2021 (reserve date Friday 16 th July 2021)	Sports Day for all children. Unfortunately, parents are not invited to attend this year due to Covid-19
Wednesday 7 th July and Tuesday 13 th July	PLP (Personal Learning Plan) appointments with Mrs Edwards (SENDCo). Please respond to Mrs Edwards if you have been invited to make an appointment.
Tuesday 13 th July 2021	School Production – performances to parents will be subject to government guidance applicable at the time.
Thursday 22 nd July 2021 – 9.00am	Leavers’ Service at St Giles’ Church Further information for Year 6 parents will follow.
Friday 23 rd July 2021	Last day of term
Thursday 2 nd September	Summer Terms Starts/Inset Day
Friday 3 rd September	Inset Day
Monday 6 th September	Children return to School

**Sunday 4th July
Coultershaw's
40th Anniversary
Big Open Day
10:30am to 5:00pm**



**Come and explore the wonderful
Coultershaw Heritage Site.**

Craft activities and quizzes

**We will be joined by many
organisations with displays of
their activities relating to history,
heritage and wildlife.**

coultershaw.co.uk/

[facebook.com/ CoultershawHeritageSiteandBeamPump](https://facebook.com/CoultershawHeritageSiteandBeamPump)

Come and see displays by these organisations

- ⇒ ***Amberly Chalk Pits Museum***
- ⇒ ***Chichester Archeology Society***
- ⇒ ***Fernhurst Furnace***
- ⇒ ***Petworth & Bognor Angling Club***
- ⇒ ***Petworth Cottage Museum***
- ⇒ ***Petworth House: NT***
- ⇒ ***Petworth Society***
- ⇒ ***Sussex Wildlife Trust***
- ⇒ ***Wey & Arun Canal Trust***

**There will also be a Stone Age craft display
and a pop-up Coffee Shop**