

Christ Church (C of E) Primary School
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Thursday 22nd October 2020

Half Term Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

COVID update

What a long and complicated half term it has been! When we welcomed everyone back in September we knew there were going to be many uncertainties, but I don't think we could have predicted how the ongoing pandemic would continue to impact upon the lives of our community. I know many of you have had periods where you have been required to isolate through Track and Trace notifications or members of your work place or family having confirmed cases of Coronavirus. Our staff have been in the same position, with their own children and families so we understand what an anxious time it is waiting for test results and also how disruptive to daily lives. Thankfully, the results appear to be coming back much more quickly now and families and staff have all been keeping school informed of potential contact and are staying away to avoid spreading to others.

Over the past 8 weeks we have had two confirmed cases which although within the same year group, have been unrelated. Thanks to these cases informing us quickly we were able to isolate the bubble and ensure that the cases have not spread into the school. I know this must have been difficult for the year group concerned and I can only express our sincere thanks to all those families for following the guidance and supporting school when we had to close bubbles.

We are taking a firm and cautious response when a case is reported and we go through a process of checking to see who may have been in contact with the confirmed case and asking each of them to then isolate. This does put huge pressure on the staff team as they cover for each other when one has to isolate rather than us bringing additional adults into school. We know that in some schools and workplaces the virus has been extremely hard to contain and many have been affected, so in us removing staff and isolating those pupils who may have been exposed we are limiting potential transmission and further closures as much as possible.

Given the ongoing increase in confirmed cases locally, we must expect this situation to continue over the next few months. Wirral remains a Tier 3 restriction area and we ask that families please follow this diligently, especially over half term. Our staff are also following restrictions outside school; in school we are not allowed to mix with each other on breaks and meetings are now online so that we can keep everyone fit and safe. Any contact staff have with each other is socially distanced and they are all continuing with the cleaning and handwashing routines with children.

We all recognise that this is a difficult and strange way of working, as I'm sure it must be for your workplaces too, but I also know how important it is to families and staff that we keep the school open as widely and safely as possible for your children. We are committed to this and with your support and understanding we will keep on going!

Harvest

Given the various changes to daily life, we have focused on the importance of our Christian ethos which is the foundation to help us cope with the challenges we face and know that God is with us all. The children have enjoyed our



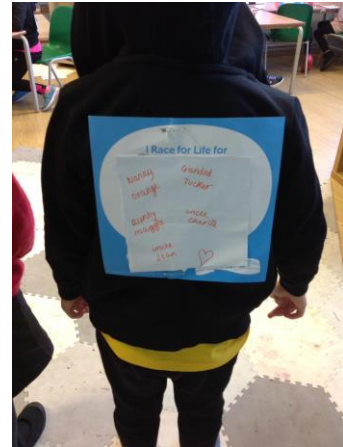
@CCMPprimary and @ChristchurchMor

Experience Harvest celebrations and reflection this week, with each bubble taking time to give thanks for the gifts we are given and think about how we can share with others. Thank-you so much for the various tinned items that have been sent into school for us to donate to the Charles Thomson Mission and Wirral Foodbank – they will be passed on next week.



Race for Life

Children and staff had a great day running the circuit for Race for Life last week – some children managed to complete 11 laps! Every child participated and tried their hardest, setting themselves personal challenges and being committed to completing their run in aid of this worthwhile charity. We were well stewarded by our super Y6 volunteers and even Sonic made an appearance! So many of our community have been touched by this disease and we are amazed at the



generosity of families who have raised a **staggering £4,967.50 plus gift aid** across the just giving page and donations that have come in from sponsorship! Thank-you so much for your support – we will make sure Cancer Research UK receive the funds and know how much our families and children support them.

Parent Teacher Meetings

In our new ways of working we have offered all families an opportunity to speak with class teachers by telephone appointment as well as Headteacher secondary school phone calls with year 6 families. The phone call will be followed up with a copy of your child's assessment for the start of the academic year and the targets we are working towards with them, as well as the support in place. I hope these calls have been helpful and informative for families; I know it's not the same as face to face contact but it is important you have the opportunity to talk with teachers. If there is anything further you wish to discuss you can contact teachers via the year group emails, leave a message on the school office email or ring the office and we will make sure we respond as soon as possible.

Half Term Building Works

Over the summer holidays we had the school boilers replaced; this was a huge job involving new pipework throughout the entire school to feed off the boilers and the boiler house now looks like mission control! The contractors will be on site over half term to finish any snags so we are nice and warm for the winter – much needed as we keep our rooms well ventilated. Also over the half term we have contractors replacing all windows and doors in the Annex building at the front of the school. This will make a great difference for the Year 4 environment.

Operation Christmas Child – Shoe Box Appeal

Each year we support the Church to fill shoeboxes to be delivered to children across the world who may not have all the lovely toys and gifts we have at Christmas time. Rev.Cousins has sent the attached flyer to tell you about the items that can be included in a shoebox. We know that this year some families may be financially affected by the pandemic so may not be able to fill a shoe box, if you would like to donate a small item please send with your child and we will have set aside sealed boxes outside classroom doors to make up class boxes. If you would like to put a box together to donate, these can be placed on the table in the playground during the week of 9th November and we will store in our outbuildings for collection.

Finally, can I ask that if any school pupil or family member have a **positive COVID test during the school holidays please would you contact the **school office email address** to inform us so that I can check any potential contacts and ensure we have plans in place to return to school safely?**

Thank-you so much for your continued support.
Take care and have a good week,

Amanda Donelan
Headteacher

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This is the time of year when we start thinking about filling our shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year so much is different, but the need for these gifts is even greater, and we will again be taking part in the shoebox appeal.



Some of the things you can put in the boxes are:

TOYS: Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls or cuddly toys, toy trucks, harmonica, yo-yo, skipping rope, ball, small puzzles etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pens, pencils & sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks & paper, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel. (*Due to more stringent import regulations, toothpaste can no longer be included in shoeboxes.*)

OTHER ITEMS: Hat, cap, gloves or scarf, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery set, wind up torch, slinky spring, matchbox cars. (*Due to more stringent import regulations, sweets can no longer be included in shoeboxes.*)

Boxes can either be filled by you or you can do it online. You can find more details about what to put in the boxes, or about how to fill one online, at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child>

Although we won't be able to have our usual Christingle / Shoebox services in church, we will be doing a joint church and school service online at 4.30 pm on 15th November. |

