



Kidmore End CE Primary School

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6th November 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a pleasant half term and have enjoyed the lovely autumn weather we have had this week. As we move into another phase of lockdown arrangements, some good weather to enable us to get out and about is very welcome. As you will know from the letter sent out from ODST earlier in the week we remain open as normal, and are continuously reviewing our risk assessments to ensure that all protective measures are in place and working well. You can read the most recent guidance from the DfE here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/education-and-childcare-settings-new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-2020>

Morning and afternoon routines

Thank you to everyone who has supported our slightly adapted drop of and pick up timings – the playground is clearing much more quickly at the end of the day ready for After School Club to come out, and I hope the arrangements allow for social distancing between adults as far as possible. It's also encouraging many children to be more independent, and lovely to see them eager to come into school as I open the gates each morning.

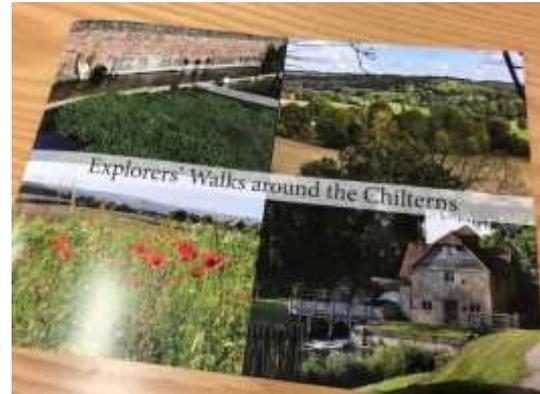
Enrichment Days

I'm delighted that we managed to fit in our KESA-funded enrichment days this week, and impressed by the safety measures in place from both companies. KS1 enjoyed working with Atomic Tom to make slime, and KS2 welcomed Stuart from Prime VR to allow them to explore a variety of topics including the digestive system and World War One. Feedback from the children was unanimously positive for both events – thank you KESA for funding these opportunities.

Active Leaders

This week Year Five have been undertaking Week One of their Junior Active Leaders' Course with Amanda. Along with sports leadership, they also had an afternoon of First Aid training, learning lots of essential life skills.

Active Leaders are determined to keep our local community active, particularly through this tricky time. They have just released a new book "Explorer Walks around the Chilterns" which will be very helpful for parents looking for active (and free!) activities to do at the weekend. Penny and Amanda will be outside Sonning Common Village Hall on Saturday between 10:00-11:30am distributing the books, which cost £5.00 each.



Secondly, they are releasing a Weekly Lockdown Challenge via social media – Facebook and Instagram Active Leaders Sonning Common. This week's challenge is an Orienteering Challenge.

Pupil progress and parent information

Progress reports for Years 1-6 will be sent out early next week. If there are specific issues that you wish to discuss, the report can be followed up with a phone call. We hope you find these updates a useful opportunity to reflect on progress and next steps in learning.

Children in Need

The focus of Children in Need this year is children's mental wellbeing, and throughout next week classes will be using Children in Need Five to Thrive activities to explore ways of keeping mentally healthy. All classes have discussed possible fundraising ideas with their School Council representatives – which is quite a challenge given the current restrictions. However, I particularly liked Year Two's suggestion of a modern-day Bob-a-Job challenge where they complete chores at home in return for a donation.

Next Friday, 13th November, will be a non-uniform day in school, in return for a donation to Children in Need. Children are invited to wear their brightest clothes, and we will have a special assembly to see how their fundraising can make a difference to children across the country. Please support this worthy cause if you can.



Remembrance

We will be coming together outside next Wednesday 11th to observe the silence at 11am, and then Year Six will accompany to lay our school wreath on the War Memorial, as well as laying poppies on the war graves in the churchyard as they do each year.

There is a short act of remembrance planned in the village on Sunday morning, and you may also have seen on the village well there is a card for children to add their own homemade poppies. I hope you have also noticed the stunning poppies made by Foundation class which are in the Hall windows at the front of school.

Open Mornings for September 2021 admissions

There is now a short presentation on the school website (under Admissions) with Open Meetings planned (to be held via Zoom) on the following dates:

- Thursday 12th November 1.30pm
- Friday 20th November 9.30pm
- Tuesday 24th November 1.30pm

We are also working on a photo tour of the school to go on the website. Please encourage anyone you know who may be interested to book in by telephone 0118 357 3149 or email office@kidmore-end.co.uk. Codes will be sent out the day before each meeting.

Anti-Bullying Week

The week beginning November 16th is national Anti-Bullying Week. This year the focus is 'United against bullying' looking at the different parts played by everyone in the community to prevent and address bullying. On Monday 16th, we will have an 'Odd Socks' day – this is simply a fun way of raising awareness, and no donation is needed to wear odd socks.

And finally...

I'm delighted to tell you that Mr and Mrs Bickerton are expecting a little brother or sister for Olivia, due in April 2021. I know you will all join me in congratulating them both, and enjoy this good news in tricky times.

I wish everyone well as we go into this period of lockdown, but particularly members of our school family working in the NHS and other frontline services. Stay safe, everyone.

With very best wishes,

Linda Hull, Headteacher

Dates for the diary

November

Weds 11 th	Remembrance Assembly
Fri 13 th	Children in Need Non-uniform day
Mon 16 th	Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying
Week	
Tues 17 th	Flu vaccinations – all classes

December

Tues 1 st	Christmas Decorations Day
Sun 13 th	National Christingle Service
Weds 16 th	Christmas Jumper Day
Thurs 17 th	End of Term 1.30pm
Fri 18 th	INSET

And events planned, but dates to be confirmed:

- FS/KS1 Christmas Performances (on video)
- Experience Christmas Trail
- Christmas Dinners
- Riding Lights Theatre Performance (streamed)
- Christmas Craft Morning

