



Kidmore End CE Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers

Our value of Friendship has been very much in evidence in school this week, particularly as we have welcomed back many of our Y6 children who were understandably eager to see their friends. All the children returning to school have coped well with being in their 'bubbles' and the safety measures in place as well as unfamiliar classrooms and teachers. Thank you to all the parents and carers for your support and to all the adults working in school who are also coping well and supporting one another!

I'm also very grateful for the friendship and support of other Headteachers, both from our trust colleagues at ODST and from local schools. Sharing ideas, checking in with one another and discussing future plans is incredibly useful, particularly when so much remains uncertain as we await further information from the government.

Next week's assembly will focus very much on being thankful for friendship, and I'll be encouraging the children to reflect on how we show our appreciation for our friends, and the activities we enjoy together. Hopefully, as lockdown restrictions are slowly lifted, and the weather improves, there will be more opportunities to meet friends and enjoy the company of others that we have all so missed.

Wider Opening

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, we have 7 'bubbles' operating within school at the moment, with all staff able to be in school working directly with children. Unfortunately, this means at present under government guidelines we are not able to plan for wider opening before the summer for other year groups, as the guidance states we could only do this if:

- we can accommodate more children while still following the approaches set out in the protective measures guidance and our own risk assessment.
- we would not require additional funding, staff of classrooms to do so. (The guidance states that community buildings such as village halls should not be used to expand capacity at present.)

We are exploring the possibilities of face-to-face meetings/socially distanced contact before the end of term for those children not returning to school at present, and will keep you informed of any workable solutions we come up with.

Home Learning

Next week's World Tour visit is to our final continent of Antarctica. Please do take time to check out the fantastic website from the British Antarctic Survey <https://discoveringantarctica.org.uk/> - there's at least a week's worth of activities in that website alone, particularly for KS2 children. The following week we will take to the seas for the final week of our Tour, exploring the oceans and many, many islands that make up our planet.

Google Classroom

I now have a whole school Classroom ready to go, with a challenge and discussion question for you all. The classroom code, passwords, instructions and a code of conduct will be sent out on Monday so your child can access the classroom.

Over next week, in their spare moments of time, teachers will be setting up classrooms for their year groups, with a challenge for those who wish to use this format to respond. We will continue to use the school website to post the main home-learning activities, and will continue to welcome children's work sent through by email or posted through the school front door! We're well aware what works for one family doesn't necessarily work for another.

We have an Art challenge and a Virtual Sports Day event coming up later in the term, which again will be posted on Google Classroom but also emailed out and put on the school website. These 'events' will also be happening in school, so we hope all children can participate in whatever way works for them.

Summer Reading Challenge 2020

You are invited to join the Squad and read yourself silly! The 2020 Challenge is a digital activity and is free to access, featuring games, quizzes and digital and downloadable activities to incentivise and encourage children and their families to take part in reading related activities at home. Find out more at: <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

As a starter, we'd love to hear about your 'best book in the world' recommendations. You might send us a picture of you reading your book, a review of the book explaining why it's so fantastic, your own book cover design or a letter to one of the characters. From Monday, your child will be able to post their response on Mrs Hull's Google Classroom Assignment, although an email to the class teacher is also fine!

Relationships and Health Education

The Department for Education has set out changes to relationships and health education (including sex education) which come into effect from September 2020. All schools will be required to comply with the updated requirements.

Over this year, we have worked with colleagues from ODST to review our curriculum and policy so that we can be sure our provision is appropriate for our pupils based on their:

- Age
- Physical and emotional maturity
- Religious and cultural backgrounds
- Special educational needs and/or disabilities

Attached is our policy, which includes a section on the Trust's policy across its schools, and then a section on provision here at Kidmore End CE School. There is substantial detail (p14-28) about what is contained in our Scheme of Work, provided by Coram Life Education, for each year group, to help you understand the curriculum requirements we need to meet. There is also information on parents' right to withdraw from some components of the curriculum (p13).

The policy has been shared with Governors and staff, and we would very much value your feedback, particularly any areas in which you feel further clarification is needed. We will send out a form along with this newsletter to gather your feedback which can then be discussed by Governors.

School Uniform

Our uniform supplier, School Trends, is now back in production after a period of closure over lockdown. If you would like new uniform for the next academic year, please place your order via ParentMail PMX as soon as possible, so we can ensure we have ordered enough stock.

If you're not sure of the size your child needs, we request in the current situation that you order the size you think is most likely, and we'll happily exchange for a different size if necessary. Please don't order two sizes and return one, as making refunds via PMX incurs additional charges. There is a [size guide](#) on the school website which might help you order the correct size for your child.

We're awaiting delivery of our 'big' order, but rest assured we will get orders to you as soon as we are able to.

And finally...

I know that some children in our school community show a keen interest in current affairs, and so it's always useful to know of reliable sources of news that are pitched at an appropriate level. My go-to would always be the Newsround website, but as a school we subscribe to First News, who are offering digital versions of their papers at the moment -

<https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/free-downloadable-issue/> At home, my daughter subscribes to The Week Junior, which is also excellent, and who are offering a six issue trial at the moment - <https://theweekjunior.co.uk/>

With very best wishes,
Linda Hull
Headteacher