

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy. As we face the difficult challenge of responding to COVID-19 our thoughts go out to those affected by this event and we send heartfelt thanks to the healthcare workers, local communities and governments around the world working to contain this unprecedented situation. The most important thing, I am sure I will keep repeating, is that we stay positive and supportive as a community.

At times such as this, many of us take stock, consider our priorities, our families and our work/life balance. As many of you know, Mrs Lasebikan has four children; her youngest starts school in September and her eldest moves up to Year 7, so a very busy year for her family indeed! Mrs Lasebikan is quite simply fabulous; she has had a huge impact on our school, she has loved working with us and our children and has been praised by Ofsted for all she has done for Music at CPS. After much thought and discussion, we simply cannot argue with her need to be closer to home for her family, nor can we solve the impact of a daily hour's commute. It is therefore with great sadness that we have to say goodbye to our inspirational music teacher at the end of the year. Mrs Lasebikan, Mrs Ali and I have scoured the world and have found a new music teacher; Miss Knuckey, a very experienced musician and music teacher (currently teaching in the Cayman Islands) to join our team at Claygate. Mrs Lasebikan has already met our new teacher via Zoom to begin a smooth handover to ensure standards do not slip and she has promised to stay in touch with us! Miss Knuckey is also an experienced peripatetic teacher and will also offer lessons in violin, cello, piano, oboe, flute and saxophone. This offer will be directly with Mrs Knuckey and will run in addition to the current Surrey Arts music lessons.

I have heard so many positive things about our school in general and how we have risen to the challenge of staying safe and how as a community we are supporting one another. Our rainbows have cheered everyone in the neighbourhood!

I wanted to let you know about something that James in Year 4 has done to raise money for the NHS. James's idea, not long into lockdown, was to run a marathon over 26 days to raise money for the NHS. He set out to run a mile every day for 26 days which he did! This is a photo of him when he achieved the final 1.2 miles. He has raised £110.20 for the NHS Charities Together fund. We are very proud of what James has achieved and the values he has shown; as he was inspired to help the NHS workers who are saving lives.





I am delighted that our much awaited climbing forest and traversing wall are now installed (and tested!). I am sure the children will love this addition to our playground. The climbing forest is next to Clubland and the Trim Trail, and the traversing wall is in the far corner of our field beyond the Muga. The area for our new EYFS Mini-Woodies has also begun and some of the fencing has been installed. This area will give these children opportunities for Forest School activities; as you may recall Mrs Buttery in EYFS is also a Forest School teacher, adding to our outdoor learning team. This will also complement our main Woodland Learning Zone and extend the play area for our younger children.

Library Update: We have had a great response for our Library survey. There are 2 clear favourites which are so close together; tree / woodland theme and underwater theme...so we have sent another survey with just these 2 options so everyone's voice is heard for the final decision!

Residential Trip Update: As soon as we receive confirmation that these trips are cancelled (Bude and Stone Farm) we will begin our insurance claim.

Our team continue to work incredibly hard with your children via Google classrooms, leading and developing their subject areas, organising the offices etc as well as keeping in touch through Zoom and of course using this opportunity to seize some of the amazing training opportunities they would otherwise not have time to do! They are also on the daily rota to care for our keyworker and vulnerable children.

Please do not be tempted to relax the social distancing recommendations:



Take care and again, please focus on staying safe, creating positive memories and protecting your whole family's well-being. I have attached a couple of books, which you might like to share, from Mrs Evans, our ELSA. I particularly like the Lost Things story, as it about all the things we are missing out on at the moment. This is a great prompt to help trigger a conversation about accepting our current situation. This is so important in helping children (and us) look forward.



We know this closure will have an impact on the children's learning and we will be ready to support your children on their return to school. This is Bertha; school dog at my previous school! She popped in for the day and loved her visit! It was lovely to see her again. Great for my well-being as she gives the best hugs!

During our upcoming Bank Holiday, there is no expectation for you to continue with home schooling and staff will not be setting work and will be 'off-duty'. However, if you wish to do something linked to the 75th Anniversary of VE Day or continue with a project, that is entirely up to you!

It is currently the Islamic holy month of Ramadan and the pandemic means it will be a very different sort of Ramadan for Muslims around the world, with Mosques closed and gatherings not permitted.

We send warm wishes for this important month.

'Ramadan Mubarak and Ramadan Kareem'

There is some speculation regarding our Prime Minister's upcoming announcement on Sunday. The Governors and I have scheduled meetings and we will be ready to tweak the scenarios we have drafted for our safe return. Once we know more we will of course share this with you. We will also liaise with you regarding any additional support you feel your child may need, if any, prior to their return.

Have a restful, sunny weekend.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Sandra Cunningham

Head Teacher