

15 May 2020

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.

Miss Knuckey, our new and experienced music teacher, starting in September is also an experienced peripatetic teacher and will 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. Please email ros.clark@claygate.surrey.sch.uk, if you would like to express an interest.

On another musical note, Alexander and Gabriel have been very busy brothers:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntXxAwjB5Cg&feature=youtu.be&safe=active>

...very well done indeed!

The fencing for our EYFS Mini-Woodies looks amazing (although due to stock scarcity this will be completed in July). Most exciting, however, we had the Year 6 corridors and classrooms repainted recently....and this week we have had new carpet fitted in the Year 6 classrooms and corridor! It looks so smart! Thank you to the staff for clearing furniture etc!

Library Update: We have had a great response to our Library survey. There were 2 clear favourites which were fairly close together; tree / woodland theme and underwater theme... Thank you to everyone who participated. Although still fairly close the tree / woodland theme was most popular; a clear winner! We are thinking fake grass carpeting, a large central tree - so get your thinking caps on as we will be doing this within a tight budget!

As you may be aware, the government has set all schools the challenge of reopening their doors to more of our children (in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6). This is currently only a possibility, as it is dependent on the rate of deaths between now and then.

How this will be done safely and practically is our current priority, as several scenarios seem to be possible. We have been asked by the Local Authority not to share any plans with staff or parents until there is further clarity from the Government.

We are currently very busy organising the school for their potential return; staff are removing soft furnishings, toys, role play etc and reorganising classrooms to create new socially distanced bubbles. We will be monitoring closely how things work and respond quickly to any further challenges – in practice or guidance from government. We will endeavour to keep you informed of how things are going so that you can feel assured that we are doing our very best to ensure

your child's safety whilst at school, particularly in these challenging times of managing the coronavirus.

We will send out brief surveys to these cohorts next week to ascertain uptake. Once we know more and are allowed to do so, we will of course share this with you. In the interim, please do not ask teachers to speculate or even email requests re groupings etc. We will also liaise with you regarding any additional support you feel your child may need, if any, prior to their return. We know this closure will have an impact on the children's learning and we will be ready to support your children as and when they do return to CPS.

Whilst sobering, clearing classrooms has shown how much in need of TLC some of the rooms are; some of Team CPS are busy painting the Year 3 classrooms - whilst others have tackled the library and started sorting through our Resources Room; it is amazing how we still have some teacher / text books from the 60s! They are of course also continuing to work incredibly hard with your children via Google classrooms and are very impressed with this system and the children's learning to date.

The Department for Education is working in partnership with the Teaching Awards Trust for national 'thank a teacher day'.

On Wednesday 20 May, we are celebrating teachers, senior leaders, support staff and all those working in education settings who are making a difference to their schools and communities during the coronavirus outbreak.

The Department for Education is working in partnership with the Teaching Awards Trust which has produced a set of resources including a Thank a Teacher toolkit containing graphics, images and frames for social media that you're free to use.

The Thank a Teacher Toolkit is available here:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Thank-a-Teacher-Day-2020-Toolkit.pdf>



During half term, there is no expectation for you to continue with home schooling and staff will not be setting work and will be 'off-duty' when not on the daily rota to care for our keyworker and vulnerable children. However if you wish to maintain a routine there are lots of activities you can do linked to the picture attached or continue with a project you have started, it is entirely up to you!

Have a restful, safe and sunny weekend.