

3 July 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.

This week, schools have been provided with further government guidance regarding schools' full opening in September to all children and all year groups. As soon as we know more, we will share this with you, however we are delighted that we will all be back to school!

As you are aware, CPS is part of the Ember Learning Trust. This benefits all stakeholders in so many ways. Head Teachers and Governors have found our close relationship particularly valuable during this uncertainty.

#### **Note from ELT**

*Typically, at the end of term we would signpost our families to the ELT newsletter covering all news and events from the term in schools, including the work that has been undertaken by staff and children. Sadly there isn't one for this term given the change in shape of education presently.*

*Throughout recent times, ELT schools have continued to work together to share plans and action as relevant to individual schools in order that communication remains key for us in our Trust. Each school has faced their own challenges during this time, and we look forward to September now in the hope that we can return to some normality for our communities and take the next steps into our journey as a collective.*

This week our focus on 'Keeping Healthy and Active' continued and the children certainly enjoyed the wide range of activities in the cooler weather - in some cases running between raindrops! The children will resume wearing uniform next week.



I hope you remember Bertie's letter regarding fundraising; we've had a chat and come up with an idea - alternative Mufti...children at school wear their own clothes for a donation, whilst children at home wear their uniforms for a donation! This will take place on **July 17<sup>th</sup>** and we are asking school children to wear 'bright colours' to symbolise a rainbow of colours! Of course, children at home may also opt for bright colours if they prefer! We would like to buy the buddy benches the House Captains had planned to buy through their fundraising House Days which have not all happened! We can take donations on the gate which will then be 'quarantined' and we will also set this up on parentmail.

Online gaming can offer many positive experiences. It can give children and young people the chance to escape into a virtual world, to learn, and to connect with others. However, there is a risk of children and young people viewing inappropriate content in games and being contacted by adults seeking to exploit them. Please see the links below from the CEOP's resources.

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This week's activity pack for parents and carers explores how they can stay safe while gaming."

- [4-5s](#)
- [5-7s](#)
- [8-10s](#)
- [11-13s](#)

There have been reported instances of parents saving sensitive information eg passwords and bank details on laptops which are also accessed by their children. Please ensure your passwords and data are not accessible by your children!

We would also ask you to remind children, particularly if they are out unaccompanied to cycle and cross roads safely and be aware of 'stranger danger', particularly in areas eg the Rec where again there is the potential for grooming etc.



Mrs Traylan and her team have been very busy with our allotments throughout the pandemic. You should see their peas!

Previously, our Greenfingers groups with Mrs Traylan have been taking part in the RSPB Wild Challenge and have achieved the Bronze award! 😊 We will now work towards Silver Award!

Congratulations CPS!

Thank you to everyone for your continued support; it is very much appreciated!

**Final day of term** is Wednesday 22 July. All Key Worker children will finish at 2pm as normal at the end of term and all other bubbles will have a staggered dismissal at their usual **FRIDAY** pick up times. Year 6 see previous communication re finish times.

INSET Day: Remains as **10th July**: school will be closed to **all** children.

## Voice in a Million email to parents:

### ‘Voice In A Million Coronavirus / COVID -19 Update

In response to the recent events and the continued uncertainty of when the government is going to allow mass gatherings Voice In A Million can announce that at this current moment in time our shows will now be rescheduled for March 2021 We held dates for May July Oct 2020 but subject to Oliver Dowdens five stage roadmap for performing arts we feel March 2021 is the best option and are hoping plans will have been fully implemented.

We have now begun collating all information from all schools to assess the impact of this on each school group, which will enable us to plan effectively for the best possible outcome for all. It was an absolutely heart breaking decision to postpone our concerts in March but in the end the choice was simple, we were bombarded with parents and schools asking us to postpone the event in March to a later and safer time, which we did. I am sure you are aware this event takes almost a year to organise. All of our costs are paid well in advance and the costs to stage this event are well in excess of £250,000. This amount is not refunded; as we too signed contracts and terms and conditions, that provide for events being re-scheduled. Unfortunately our insurance for the event, although robust, does not cover pandemic outbreaks.

We appreciate that this has caused upset and anger to some parents and we can only apologise, we simply do not have the funds to refund and therefore the only option we have is to reschedule. In short, if we didn't go ahead, we would have no other choice than to close and be one of the many companies that have ceased to trade due to Covid 19.

To sustain enthusiasm for the event from the beginning of the new academic year in Sept 2020 we will be running weekly choir / singing workshops for all schools and students taking part all accessible online with a duration of 40 mins to fit nicely into the schools timetable. We are delighted to announce a number of overseas schools will also be joining us for these sessions. These will be online and can be accessed any time during the week

Regarding Year 6 & Year 11 students where the impact will be greater we are working with a number of schools to cater for this age group; and whilst they will have left the school by the time of the event, they will be able to attend later in the day with their parents, prior to the event starting, avoiding the need to miss any school time but allowing them the opportunity to experience and take part in our event.

They will have a choice of either being seated with their original school group, or be supervised on a 1-10 ratio in a block for year 6s. This is the fairest way to ensure that those children are given the opportunity not to miss out, and also we hope will mean their families can use their tickets and see their children. Whilst it may not seem like the ideal solution it is the only one we can offer.

We appreciate parents, family & friends that have purchased tickets, are disappointed, we too were devastated to have to postpone. The fact is we simply do not have the funds to refund the tickets as we have not been refunded for any of our costs. Had this happened in November 2019 the outcomes would have been very different. We have 18,000 T shirts in storage, along with all merchandise. Plus we have 15000 children that have rehearsed and I am sure want to perform! Therefore the show must go on! Using the Arena to its full capacity rather than our normal configurations for our events would allow us the opportunity to socially distance our events.

I am so sorry that I cannot offer a more positive response but with our industry in crisis we are simply hoping that we manage to get through this and don't have to close. I would ask that people try to remember that VIAM didn't cause this pandemic and the impact on businesses is huge, we are not the only business to find ourselves in this position and after 12 years of operating VIAM this will have a devastating and lasting effect for the foreseeable future.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards,

*Mrs Sandra Cunningham*

Head Teacher