



January 2020

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to all our families and welcome to new staff and families who have joined us this term.

Ofsted Inspection

The Ofsted report, published this month, is a significant verification of all that we already know and love about our school. The pupils and staff must be congratulated for their tenacity and dedication to being the best that they can be. We will never be complacent and recognise that we will always need to keep the rigour and drive to improve at the heart of our school in order to do the best by our pupils. The inspectors recognised the local challenges and demographics of our school, and recognised what really matters.

Attendance

Attendance of our pupils is monitored weekly by our family support worker, Mrs Alyson Hamond- Forge. Please note that your child's attendance is expected to be above 95% - anything below this is a cause for concern.

Thank you to all of those parents who have started to email the school, christtheking@ctkcps.com, with reasons for a child's absence due to the phone lines being busy. It really does help.

Holiday Absence

Although we fully understand the attraction of taking holiday during term time, especially financially, it is important that families avoid doing so as the impact of lost learning time on your child's progress is huge. Absences leaves gaps in learning and can make the difference between a child grasping a new concept or not. This in turn can affect their self-esteem and their performance in statutory tests.

During April, May and June all pupils are assessed and those in Years 1,2,4 and 6 take national statutory tests. Any absence during these months will not be authorised as the children need the best chance to be successful. For all other pupils there are on-going assessments that are finalised at the end of June and must be reported to either the Trust or DfE or both.

Reading Awards

Congratulations to all pupils who achieved their Golden Award certificate before Christmas (100 signatures) – Also

KS1 - Indigo

LKS2 - Henry R

UKS2 - Savana

Staff News

This term we welcome new teachers Ms Mellon, Year 1, Mrs Greenwood, Year R, Miss Hart, Pre- School and Mrs Yusuf, Year 3. We also welcome Mrs Fry, teaching assistant in Year 2.

Uniform

Please can all parents remember that we ask for P.E. kits to be brought in on a Monday, for use in the week, and taken home on Thursdays, to be worn to school for Fit Fridays. Too many pupils have not got access to their kits on P.E. days. This is not hygienic and is restrictive in their movement. All PE kit must adhere to the school uniform policy –no logos!

Hair Styles

Shaved fashion styles are not suitable for school. Please ensure that a minimum of grade 2 is requested when children are taken to the hair dressers. Long hair must be tied back away from the face. Short cuts – less than a grade 2 – are unacceptable and contrary to policy. It is disappointing when our uniform expectations are disregarded.

Health and Safety

We have to remind parents that we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL. We can no longer allow birthday cakes to be brought in to school to be shared among classmates. We are happy to allow individually wrapped items, sealed mini bags of Haribo or wrapped lollies so parents can decide if their child is allowed it. Please check out our Nut Free Policy on the school website.

Music

Year 4 are enjoying whole class Ukulele lessons, with instruments loaned by our Music Hub, "Sound storm". On February 6th Years 1-6 will be able to enjoy a "Live and Inspired" music concert in school, by local professional musicians. Years 4 and 5 will also be lucky enough to be able to try out playing Violins, Violas and 'Cellos.

Lunches

There is a lot of food waste – children not eating what you provide. Children get upset, waste time and it delays their play time. Please talk to them about their preferences.

New prefects:

Congratulations to our new Year 6 Prefects: India, Mia, Ruby, Annalise, Miguel, Jonny, Nouraldin, Jessie, Jean-Luc, Sophia.

Elderly Citizens Party

Thank you to Year 6 again for organising a fabulous Christmas party for the local pensioners within our parish and the local area. The children sang, danced and entertained the visitors - linking old and young in this way benefits everyone and certainly spread the warmth of the season.

Jubilee Year

This year Christ the King School is celebrating its diamond jubilee, 60 years since opening on 5th September 1959. The new single form entry school celebrated its opening in summer 1960. We intend to mark this special year in June 2020 where past staff and pupils have the opportunity to join in the Jubilee celebrations.

EYFS

EYFS are appealing for donations of previously loved role play resources: any small world, equipment/figures, dressing up clothes, etc. All would be gratefully received.

Parish Event

There is a Dance being held to help raise much needed funds for the Church roof fund. Please support this event – it is sure to be enjoyable for the whole family.

Children First (Catholic Children's Society)

Just a reminder that there is an orange collection box in the office for donations of used stamps, postage cards, coins, old banknotes, costume jewellery, medals, badges, keys, watches, ink cartridges and old mobile phones. Children First are able to raise much needed funds to help Catholic families throughout the Diocese.

Find out how you can help the Catholic Children's Society through their website:

www.ccsplymouth.org.uk

Battery Collection Point

Thank you to all of you who have already sent in used batteries for recycling. Please keep filling those boxes and sending them in, the children know they are helping the environment in doing this.

Health

If your child is feeling under the weather, has toothache, pains etc but insists on coming to school, please can you provide pain relief to the office just in case it's needed.

Dogs

School sites are not for dogs.

"It shall be unlawful to bring a **dog** onto the **grounds** of any **school**, regardless of whether the **dog** is restrained by a leash, chain, rope, cord or similar device"

Dogs shall be **allowed on school grounds** as an exception to this section under the following circumstances:

1. Is a registered hearing or sight dog and we have received a letter warning us that this will be happening.
2. Part of a prior arranged and risk assessed activity

Parking

The new BCP have started an initiative whereby parking enforcement agents will be targeting schools throughout the borough in a concentrated effort. They were in Durdells Avenue twice this month.

Remember, it is illegal to park or stop on the zigzags. Please be aware.

End of Day

Please be aware that KS1 finishes at 3.10pm and KS2 at 3.15pm. We understand that sometimes parents are held up in traffic or a bus breaks down but there are families that are regularly late to collect. This causes upset to the child as they feel forgotten – it is detrimental to their wellbeing.

Safeguarding

If, as a parent, you see or hear anything that causes concern for the wellbeing of any pupil, it is always best to report your concerns either in person or by phone. Anything said is treated with the utmost confidence and can result in help being given where it's needed.

Thank you for the time taken to read this newsletter. Please do pop into one of our coffee mornings if you would like a chat or a catch up about anything. I will also be available outside school most days and at our parent / teacher consultations in February.

Kind regards

Mrs Clare Tickel