



Headteacher:
Mrs Katie Turner

CHILTON FOLIAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church of England, Voluntary Aided
Stag Hill, Chilton Foliat, Hungerford RG17 0TF
Telephone: 01488 682630
Website: www.chiltonfoliatprimary.org.uk
Email: admin@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year

As we come to the end of our first week of term in the new year, I would like to wish all our families a very Happy 2021.

What a difference a day makes! On Monday, the school team came together to organise how we should further improve our COVID-19 safeguarding measures so that we could offer all our children, their families and our staff the safest possible return to school. After what had been a very happy end of term, we were also looking forward to seeing all our children again and getting off to an energetic and positive start. By about 4.00pm the rumours had started and by 6.00pm we were pulling out all our lockdown/home school learning files once again in anticipation of the Government announcement later that evening. The outcome, a mixed bag of emotions: understanding the critical status of the country's COVID crisis and the absolute necessity to do all that we can to "Stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives"; and the consequence of not being able to have the children back to school, knowing the pressure that this puts on everybody at home and the impact on the children's education.

However, being the eternal optimist that I am, I have everything crossed that this will be the last time when we have to be partially open and with the coming of the spring and the vaccines we will soon all be reunited.

Access to home learning

By now everybody should have been able to log into their class home learning platform either on TEAMS or Google Classroom (Sika only) and be accessing their home school learning and getting in touch with their class teachers directly. If anybody is experiencing any technical problems or would like to ask the school for an additional device to support home learning, please get in touch. We do have a small supply of devices we could offer to those families who are experiencing difficulties in connecting remotely.

Teachers and teaching assistants are working on a rota basis to cover the "vulnerable and critical worker" classes, one for EYFS/KS1 and one for KS2. Whilst teachers are

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teaching in class they might not be able to reply to your TEAMS or Google Classroom comments immediately but they will as soon as practically possible. Each class teacher will be organising how they will be responding and assessing the work set and measuring progress as best they can. It is vital that all our children engage with their home learning so that this continuous teaching, learning and assessment process can continue. Again, if any family is experiencing difficulties with the accessing or completing home learning, please get in touch with your teacher directly or via the office so we can pass your message on.

Vulnerable and critical worker classes

We have organised our classes for vulnerable and critical workers which are now full. To those parents who would be considered by the Government's definitions to fall into one of the categories, but not been accepted, I would like to thank you for your understanding. Working towards a maximum number as dictated by our COVID risk assessment, we had to apply a strict set of selection criteria to all applicants. There is a wait list and if there are any changes we will be back in touch.

TalktoMrsTurner is back!

In addition to your class home learning we will be re-launching "TalktoMrsTurner" as a way for families to share any general news they may have from home.

I would love to receive messages from you maybe describing a frosty morning walk or getting cosy by the fire with some pictures, if you are happy to share them on the school's website. Other contributions could be of a piece of work you are proud of, or a prayer to share with others. Our whole school Christian value for this term is **Courage** and any work or words showing how you are putting your courage and perseverance into practice would be most welcome.

The email address is talktomrsturner@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk

The school website

We will also be setting up a new school to home information tab on our website where we can post more general news and information which may be of help to our families as they continue to support their children at home. If you have any information that you think it would be useful to share with the whole school community, please let us know.

I will be back in touch soon with more updates. In the meantime, and from the whole school team we *continue* to be grateful for all your courage, patience, perseverance and understanding as *you continue* to support your children with their education and wellbeing during these challenging and uncertain times.

Yours sincerely

Katie Turner
Headteacher

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