



Headteacher:
Mrs Katie Turner

CHILTON FOLIAT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church of England, Voluntary Aided
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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Message from the Full Governing Body

We do hope that this letter finds you all safe and well, and hopefully you've had at least a small opportunity to enjoy the glorious weather we've been having!

Without question, Covid-19 has had a profound and extraordinary impact on the school, wider community and the world we live in. We have all found ourselves applying 'the growth mindset' approach, as we learn new skills and find new ways to do things that previously had been so straightforward. We understand that all of us have our unique challenges to face too; parents have kindly shared with us their struggles with juggling the demands of home schooling alongside working from home, caring for others, seemingly never-ending domestic chores, and simply keeping positive when everything feels so hard. It is clear each family is doing their best in their own circumstances, and we thank you all for your hard work and patience as you do what you can to support your children in their home-learning journey. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all in these challenging times.

This week the full governing body held its first meeting since lockdown, and although we had a few hiccups at the beginning, we heard a special prayer and made our way through our business, as always sharing a common passion to do our best for the school we all love so dearly.

Schools will play a key part in how the government starts to lift lockdown measures. There is much speculation and debate about this in the media, and headteachers, governors, staff, pupils and parents across the country understandably have many questions about how this will all look in practice in each setting. We are committed to opening **only once we are certain the recommendations provided by the Local Authority and Department for Education are in place**, and when we can be confident that the school community can teach and learn in a safe environment. We believe this is the best approach to provide the safest setting to welcome our children and staff back. There will be risks of course; nothing can be absolutely guaranteed with this situation, and therefore we also fully respect your decision should you prefer to keep your child/children at home for a longer period.

The Local Authority and the Department for Education issue information to us on a daily basis, and with that, the goal posts seem to shift at a similar rate, so we envisage plans will change over time. We appreciate the complexity of this situation for our parents, as certain changes could have a subsequent domino effect on our timetable and plans, so as much advance notice as possible will be given to any changes as the situation evolves.

With thankfulness, courage and love, we strive to improve heart and mind.

We are a small school with limited resources, and the team has worked hard to provide rich and varied content to support remote learning, understanding that with so many different home settings, as much flexibility as possible is essential for it to be accessible to all. Now, of course, much attention is needed in preparation for the phased re-opening of the school for our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. We believe that a return to school will be a positive step for the children. School will be different, and Mrs Turner has already begun to outline plans in her recent communications. The amount of work the school has done thus far to prepare for this cannot be underestimated, and our governors are in full agreement that we will continue to follow government guidance as it continues to evolve.

We have enormous confidence in Mrs Turner and her team, and we know that they will do their best for our children – both those learning at home and at school. This will be a significant initiative, delivering education within 2 environments simultaneously. Whilst there may be changes and challenges along the way, we know how committed they are to doing the best they can for the children.

In the meantime, please continue to engage with the school via the email talktomrsturner@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk. We know how much Mrs Turner and her team enjoy the interaction with all the school's families, and more importantly providing support where they can.

This journey was not planned, but I'm sure you'll all agree that in our hearts and minds we have seen courage, love and thankfulness grow.

We have been so blessed with the weather, helping keep our spirits up. Enjoy the outdoors during the half-term!

Keep healthy and safe,

Sam Wolcough

Sam Wolcough
On behalf of the Governors

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