



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

Headteacher:
Mrs Katie Turner

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff Team,

As another academic year draws to a close, we reflect on what has been achieved in relation to our strategic priorities, and what we are looking forward to in the next year.

This year, like no other, we all, school staff, governors, parents and children alike, have demonstrated our Christian values of thankfulness, courage and love and tested our ability to embrace the 'Growth Mindset' principles. It has been a truly remarkable time, and we remain hugely grateful and appreciative of our strong ties with the local community and church; this sense of community and belonging is so important.

We cannot thank you enough for all the efforts made by you all in supporting the unprecedented challenge of home learning whilst juggling normal life and other priorities for such an extended period of time. You are all heroes for supporting the academic, mental and emotional well being of our children, and we couldn't have delivered this approach without your commitment and partnership with the school.

We are immensely proud of the whole school team, who under the resilient and empowered leadership of Katie Turner have gone above and beyond their normal remit and delivered not only an initial home learning approach, but continued to evolve this, culminating in the use of Microsoft Teams for live sessions, storytelling and online French. In parallel, they have provided the continuity of an ever growing key workers club and the opportunity for all children to come back to school for at least a few days before the summer break, something not all schools have been able to offer. We thank them for their love of the school and their care for each and every child.

We have also not lost sight of the other major achievements this academic year, which have included:

- The fantastic Ofsted report following the two day inspection in January and the achievement of a GOOD rating across all categories, with some wonderful documented feedback recognising the staff's and pupils' achievements
- The opening of the new Sika classroom, bringing with it fantastic new fit-for-purpose learning space for our older pupils
- An extended school hall, with refurbished pupil toilet facilities
- The opening of the new Community Clubhouse providing a state-of-the-art facility for Chilton Club Childcare to deliver their wraparound service; something

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

which sets us apart from other schools. Thank you to everyone who helped to raise money for these fantastic new facilities!

- A buoyant number of new Reception children will be joining us in September 2020
- The ongoing commitment of our Friends to contribute to the school community in so many ways including the fabulous bonfire night, Christmas fair and virtual balloon race!

As we look forward to the next academic year, we would like to share with you some of our key priorities:

- **Continue to deliver a high standard of education** across the school, catering to the needs of each of our children, and embed our approach to deliver 'blended' learning, to provide access to the curriculum both at school and at home.
- **Decorate classrooms and upgrade our electrical infrastructure** over the summer, thus improving lighting both within the school and outside, ensuring it meets current safety standards, and importantly reducing our environmental impact. (Funding was secured from a successful grant application in October 2019).
- **Improve and expand the Early Years garden** to create an engaging and fun outdoor learning space for our youngest pupils. (We continue to fundraise for this with grant applications. Please get in touch if you would like to know more about how you can help).
- **Launch the Chilton Foliat Primary School Enrichment Fund** to financially support the school to continue to deliver the high standard of education we all expect. There is much in the media about how much financial pressure is on schools nationwide, and as a small village primary school this is particularly challenging. The 'funding formula' is determined by the Department for Education and managed by the Local Authority. Our income is based on the number of pupils on roll in the previous year on a census day, and the school is then allocated funding for the following year, based on this number. Over the last 5 years our numbers on roll have fluctuated between the 80s and well over 100, and these fluctuations have a significant impact on the budget. Many schools, both in the area and nationwide, have introduced fundraising campaigns to encourage donations and grants directly to the school, thus providing an additional income stream to top up and support the school with resources and experiences that contribute to a broad and balanced education. Reluctantly, the governors have felt that this approach could help to achieve a greater consistency in our funding, alongside our continued commitment to gaining best value. The campaign to launch the Chilton Foliat Primary School Enrichment Fund will take place over the summer and we hope that you will support it and share via your networks and communities.
- **Provide the benefits of Chilton Foliat Primary School to more children.** Recognised for delivering a high standard of education, with enhanced capacity of the Sika class, an extended school hall and the fabulous Community Clubhouse, the school is ideally poised for growth. Parents are the best ambassadors for our wonderful school and we have a handful of spaces across all year groups at the

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

moment that we would be delighted to fill. If you know of anyone who is moving to the area or looking to change schools then we would be grateful if you could encourage them to consider our school. The office will be picking up messages over the summer, and the team is happy to discuss next steps, whether that is a conversation or a visit.

- **Grow our team of Governors.** We invite parents to consider joining our enthusiastic and committed team. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Sam Wolcough at Chair@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk or any of the governors to discuss further.

We are excited to welcome a new member of the teaching team in September, Miss Black. She has already begun the handover process with Mr Hughes, who we thank for the passion, energy and enthusiasm he has brought to the school and wish him well in his new role.

Our thanks to the whole school teaching team for putting in place such robust plans for our re-opening in September. All that remains is for us to wish you all a very restful, safe and happy summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back at the start of what promises to be a very positive academic year ahead.

With best wishes,

The Governing Body