



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

Thursday 18th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful for the Governors to hear how the staff made such an effort to welcome the children back to school. The display of balloons, bunting and banners made it a much-deserved celebration after the last few months of home learning, and it was great to have the media cover the story and include pictures too! We are *thankful* to every parent and carer for their commitment and *courage* with remote schooling, supporting the emotional and educational needs of the children in very challenging circumstances. We are optimistic about the future and confident the children will swiftly adjust to their routine at school.

Parent Survey

The Governors have put together a survey to gather feedback on aspects of the home learning experience and the school's Christian ethos. Under more 'normal' circumstances we enjoy holding parent forums to gain your views, however given current circumstances we would be grateful if each family could complete the survey online by Monday 22nd March whilst the memories of home school learning are still fresh. The link is below (you may need to copy it into your browser):

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/E4NR7Q/>

On a different note, our school community is a hub of activity, and even in a national lockdown there are many committed volunteers helping in numerous ways to make the school community the special place it is, even virtually! We are *thankful* to those who give their time and skills so generously, and those that support the many initiatives within our busy community. The *love* of the school is much appreciated, and we are always keen to include others as every contribution, in whatever form it takes, makes a difference! The next few topics below cover some of the ways a difference can be made.

250th Anniversary Celebrations

You will have read in the most recent newsletter that plans are in progress for the school's 250th anniversary celebrations. It is an exciting milestone and Chilton Foliat CE VA Primary School has gone from strength to strength since it first began 250 years ago this year. We are exceptionally proud of our long history of educating generations of incredible children who have gone on to do extraordinary things both locally and far beyond. It is the school's privilege to teach our children in their most formative years. If anyone would like to be involved, from years past and present, please do get in touch with the office and help spread the word!

Enrichment Fund

In line with our vision, we believe the education experience of our pupils must go beyond the national curriculum; we highly value our French lessons, our IT infrastructure, extra-curricular activities, inter-school competitions, excursions and more, all of which provide important opportunities for our children to develop and thrive. We are unwilling to make compromises that impact on our provision, however with government funding alone, we are under pressure

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

to do so. Our children deserve the best we can offer them, not compromises dictated by our school budget.

We have therefore launched the Chilton Foliat Primary School Enrichment Fund. It has been mentioned in previous Governor letters, and we would like to share more about it. The aim of the Enrichment Fund is to financially support the school to continue to deliver the high standard of education we all expect. There is much in the media about the financial pressure on schools nationwide, and as a small village primary school this is particularly challenging. The 'funding formula', on which our budget is based, is determined by the Department for Education and managed by the Local Authority. Our income or funding is based on the number of pupils on the school roll in the previous year. 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 as a way to balance the books (given the challenges of school funding and rising costs), 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.

We are therefore asking parents, alumni, businesses, charities, members of our community and anyone who would like to make a positive impact on our wonderful children, to consider contributing to the Enrichment Fund. We welcome either a one-off donation or small regular donations providing an income stream that help with planning. It will all add up and make a difference.

The Enrichment Fund has an allocated bank account and there is an area on the school's website with the Donation Form to be completed and Gift Aid can now be claimed too, which means that UK taxpayers can Gift Aid their donations e.g. for every £10 donated, the school will receive an additional £2.50 from the UK government. Donations will be used to maintain and improve learning facilities and to pay for a range of teaching resources. Donations are confidential and the fund will be overseen by the Resources Committee to ensure that contributions are used effectively to maximise impact. (Note, this fund is separate from existing arrangements relating to contributions towards school trips, which will continue to apply.)

We are hugely *thankful* for the many contributions already received over the years. Please consider making donations if you can, although we understand that some may not be comfortable with this or will not be in a position to consider contributing, particularly with the current national context. We completely appreciate that and always welcome support in other ways!

Every contribution, no matter how small, will make a real difference to our children's learning experience. Please do feel free to share this link with others who you think may wish to contribute.

<http://www.chiltonfoliatprimary.org.uk/welcome-to-chilton-foliat-primary-school/enrichment-fund/>

Early Years Garden Transformation

We are all very excited about the plans for the Early Years garden transformation which has been designed with local charity ARK. The Friends and Governors have collaborated and done an amazing job securing grants in an enormously challenging fundraising environment and we would love additional help with grant applications so the dream can swiftly become a reality! Contact Ali Payne on apayne@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk if you would like to get involved!

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The Friends

Given current circumstances The Friends are currently supporting the transformation of the Early Years outdoor area. Once face-to-face events and meetings can take place again, their fundraising priorities will be reviewed and agreed with the school.

The Friends play an incredible role in not only fundraising efforts, but in creating fun and memorable events that the children often remember for the rest of their lives! Getting involved is great fun too, email friendsofchiltonfoliat@gmail.com if you'd like to see how you can help.

Parent Governor Recruitment

Governance of the school is a strategic function, and we are fortunate to have an exceptionally strong and committed team of Governors. Collectively they are responsible for providing confident and strategic leadership, and creating robust accountability, oversight and assurance for the school's educational and financial performance. The board is passionate about education and committed to continuous school improvement to ensure the best possible outcomes for our pupils.

Following a re-shuffle, (and thankfully no departures!) we have 2 Parent Governor vacancies, and we are inviting parents or carers who feel they can contribute their time to the board's work. Further details will be shared via Parentmail, including some personal reflections from Daniel Martin, a parent who joined the board in September. We very much hope you will be inspired to join us, and Sam Wolcough, our Chair of Governors, is very happy to discuss what is involved. You can contact her via Chair@chiltonfoliat.wilts.sch.uk.

Welcome to New Families

We *love* welcoming new pupils and their families to our school community, and hope our Christian values of *thankfulness, courage, and love* will play their positive part. We look forward to coming together properly, in person, in the playground, at Friends events, celebration assemblies and church services.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our parents for their wonderful recommendations and positive and proactive comments about our school; it is hugely appreciated by the whole school team.

There are more reasons to be optimistic as we approach the second half of March, and we continue to hope and pray that coming together as a community will happen soon. But until we are further down this path, we thank everyone for their efforts to respect and follow the clearly defined guidance from the school to keep everyone safe and well.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone, including the whole school team, for their support in making the return to school such a success!

Take care and stay safe.

With thankfulness, courage, and love

The Governing Body

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