

3rd March 2022

Dear Parents,

After such a turbulent start to half term, I do hope you were able to enjoy some pleasant time with the children. Once again, I feel I must apologise for the short notice closure which was directed by the Local Authority. Thankfully there was no damage to our building, though one or two trees on-site were affected by the strength of the storms. I do hope that your properties were not adversely affected.

As you will be aware the Government moved us to a new phase of 'living with Covid' last week. The Department for Education have issued updated Guidance, which at present does not change the daily operation of the school in terms of ventilation, cleaning and hygiene management. However everyone is now instructed to follow the national guidance regarding testing positive for the disease (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts>); and the Department have issued a Guidance document for parents.

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>)

We will be reviewing the operation of the school again at Easter as previously mentioned. At the moment we are fortunate to have very few families immediately affected by Covid, and are now experiencing children having the more usual range of childhood illnesses. Please may I remind all parents that if your child is absent from school due to illness or a family emergency then you must notify the school either by phoning or by emailing admin@cheddington.bucks.sch.uk before 8:55am. If a child is not in school and we have not heard from you, then we have a legal safeguarding duty to contact you urgently to confirm that your child is safe. Thank you for your help with this.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back this week – they were excited to share with us the things they had been doing over the half term break. Today is World Book Day, and we thank you for the inspiration you and your children have shown in dressing as a word. We have all enjoyed guessing what each other represents – sometimes with success! We have been sharing the World Book Day books with the children this week, and we hope that they will enjoy spending their tokens at the Book Fair next week. Several classes have been participating in virtual author visits as part of our celebration of reading – I trust the children will have shared this with you if they have been fortunate to participate.

Please could I remind parents of children in Year 3 to Year 6 that the children should have their own small pencil case and equipment. We do offer a stationery shop at considerably reduced prices compared with the shops. This is an important part of the children's development for the next stage of their education – to take responsibility for their own belongings and to ensure they have the correct equipment for learning. There is a list on the website of what the pencil case should contain, and we ensure that replacement purchases are handled promptly.

The teachers are looking forward to meeting with you at Parent Consultation Meetings next week. At this meeting, we traditionally invite Y6 pupils to participate with you in the discussion, as this is the practice at Secondary School. Please do try to arrive ten minutes ahead of your appointment time so that you can look at your child's work, and enjoy a tea or coffee with the Governors. Do remember that the Book Fair will be open and

your children are welcome to browse whilst you are speaking with their teacher. We are requesting that any books chosen are paid for at point of selection and with cash. I appreciate that during the pandemic period card payments have become the norm, however this is not possible for the Book Fair event this year. It will not be possible to reserve books, but the Fair is open daily after school next week as well as during the Consultation Meeting times should your child find more reading than you may have anticipated.

I do hope you noted the message from the PTA regarding their Uniform Shop. This will be held in the Canteen on Wednesday afternoon from 2:45pm. There will be new and second-hand items available should your children have had a recent growth spurt!

Sadly, once again I must request that parents park with consideration for our neighbours. Please use the park and walk facilities if at all possible, and ensure that, if you really must drive into Lammas Road, you are not blocking access for the residents or damaging the grass verges. I am very disappointed to have to issue this reminder just two school weeks after the last message. Wherever possible the children should be walking to school, or using the park and walk from the Village Hall or the recreation ground. Thank you to all parents who are supporting our relationship with our neighbours by parking away from the environs of the school.

The week commencing 14th March is STEAM week – Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths week. We are planning a very special week of activities for the children around the theme of 'Growth'. I am sure the children will be excited to share with you the different learning they will be doing. Y6 will also be visiting Waddesdon Manor on the 14th as part of their Science learning.

The Local Authority have requested that we share with you the attached message regarding their Education Strategy Consultation. Please do take time to respond if you are able to do so.

I am sure the coming weeks will fly by as we gradually move into Spring. The children will certainly be busy and hopefully excited to share their learning activities with you.

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher

Letter from the Local Authority – responses are requested.

We want to hear your views on the Education Strategy and its key priority areas for 2022 to 2027 to support our children and young people for the future.

Buckinghamshire Council have launched a consultation asking for your views on education for children and young people across Buckinghamshire. It is our role to be the champion for your children and their learning as they grow, from the early years with childminders, pre-schools and nurseries, right through to schools and colleges and ensuring they are then ready to embrace their future.

The aim of this consultation is to ensure families are able to contribute their ideas on how the Education Strategy for Buckinghamshire could be further developed, and what its key priorities should be, particularly in light of recent events which have had a significant impact on the education of our children and young people.

We are seeking your views about each of the proposed priority areas that have been identified so far to find out if these are the right areas of focus.

The consultation is <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/schools/education-strategy-2022>. Your views will help us plan how we work with schools, colleges and all those who support our children in their education to reach their potential and have good opportunities.

The consultation is open from **Monday 14 February until midnight on Monday 28 March 2022**. We want to know what is important to you and your children in relation to their education, and what we can do to work with all of our partners to ensure that your children have the best start in life and a good education. Please take a few minutes to give us your views on how we plan to do this for children in Buckinghamshire.

Many Thanks

Maria Edmonds
Education Strategy Manager
Buckinghamshire Council