



"To have life and live it to the full."

Ditton CE Junior School Newsletter – 5th March 2021

First and foremost we are gearing up for our big day on Monday. We understand you and the children will be both excited and anxious. We trust we got our communication out clearly and promptly last week via ParentMail and Class Dojo. We have discussed and reviewed all our plans as a staff team. Don't forget you can now get the lateral flow test kits from the Ditton Community Centre Car Park up the road. Staff will be acutely focused on assessing your child's needs, emotions and learning and we have asked that, whilst they will be very intent on judging what they need to teach, we won't be doing loads of formal tests in these early weeks. We will aim to do a complete set of assessments by end of term however.



It has all been such a challenge hasn't it? We do hope you appreciated our efforts to master new technologies and deliver parents evenings to many. We thank you for your incredible support with this, your tolerance and great feedback throughout. You have helped us be the best we can be! I think I managed to miscommunicate quite well regarding another change – Forest Schools. To begin with I have had to ensure all my staff get at least two training sessions so it may not seem to have been shared fairly for all children. Once training is complete we can begin to block out equal sessions for all children through the summer terms. We have let you know when the next few sessions are (Mondays) and which classes are involved. Children will need messy clothes and can come in those and change at lunch or wear uniform in the morning and change at lunch for afternoon sessions. Don't worry if you forget this to begin with!

Lockdown Learning and Discovery Festival - Last term, all children that were in school took part in the Learning and Discovery Festival. This was an inclusive competition that aimed for all children to be successful in the activities they competed in. We are very proud to say that we achieved some great results from this! The Year 4 Bubble came 1st in the LKS2 division and one of the Year 5 teams came 2nd in the UKS2 division. Well done to everyone that competed and we look forward to participating in many more competitions similar to this one in the next couple of terms.

Some of you have been asking about plans for summer and even Easter schools. I'm afraid we have no more information than you at present. I don't think anything will be in place for Easter and we believe that secondary schools will be tasked with any summer schools and will be sharing things soon but this would focus on Year 6 leavers I imagine. It is also very unlikely now that our own Year 6 will have a residential trip but we will plan lots of outdoor events and visits for them if allowed.



Lastly, can I remind you to share any thoughts on our Christian vision statement sent out last week via the school office. May I also say that I intend to go back to fortnightly newsletters after this week. I hope that, along with Class Dojo, our weekly updates have shown how hard we are trying to keep in touch and be open and honest about our work. Your high levels of approval and feedback have been a delight. On that point we are probably now only about a week or so away from launching our new website. Huge thanks must go to Tracey Martin in the office for so much of that work. Much of our continued efforts at better communication will see the new website as the go to place for information and updates for current and prospective parents.



Richard Sutton-Smith

Job 11:18 – "And you shall be secure, because there is hope; you shall look round you and lie down in safety."