



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

Ditton CE Junior Newsletter – 19th March 2021



A big thank you for sharing these first two weeks - back to some kind of normal. Apologies for the very tightly organised new **pick up system** we introduced this week. A few parents felt we were all too squashed up still at pick up in the first week back. We had a look and we agreed so we ask for your patience and support with the new changes. **Feedback** always welcome but we will run it to Easter then change if needed. The children have been brilliant! May I also say a big thank you to the **PTA** for the lovely **Mothers' Day gifts** they produced at the end of last week. Just got my mum a bottle of sherry, a book and a card but it seemed to do the trick, she was very quiet all day!



A note from our chair: The IEB has been meeting at least monthly to oversee the development of the school. We have also met with the Local Authority and Diocese and had some positive feedback on the progress so far. Unlike a Governing Body we do not have a committee structure but each member has a portfolio of interests and responsibilities and regularly reports to the Board.

A huge thank you for working with school staff to ensure a very positive and safe return for pupils this month. The arrangements have allowed a smooth transition as we head towards a more normal school experience. We're hoping that as the days go by, we will be able to find ways of meeting with more of you and saying this in person.

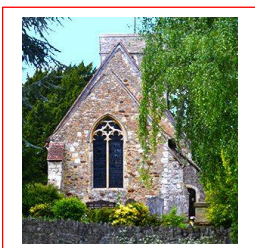
Changes to leadership arrangements. As you will remember, the original plan was for Mr Sutton-Smith to be Interim Headteacher until the end of term 4 and Miss Johnson to assume the role from April. In addition to this, we're pleased to confirm that Mr Sutton-Smith has agreed to continue to work with us in an advisory capacity for the remainder of the academic year. In order to make his role clear, we will refer to him as our Consultant Headteacher as he supports Miss Johnson as Interim Headteacher.

Dr Peter Gregory Chair of Interim Executive Board



On the above section, may I just add that I have loved being a part of this team so was delighted to accept the IEBs offer and keep things moving with Miss Johnson! A couple of other staff matters. I forgot to say last week that **Mrs Nicholls** had a baby girl, Phoebe, at 7lb 3 oz, and also to inform you that our outstanding office Manager, **Mrs Stevens**, is resting up at home for a few weeks after an op. Go easy on our amazing office team, they are pretty stretched right now!

Sent with this newsletter will be a summary of where we are on tackling things that were raised in the last **parent survey**, and a new parent survey for this term. We will have paper copies available on the gate or playground too and will have collection boxes available for the returns. As we mentioned before we have also got to the point where we are able to launch our **new website next week**. It won't look massively different but it's given us much better ability to add and update and we hope that you will find all the information you need there - www.ditton-jun.kent.sch.uk



Richard Sutton-Smith

With Easter coming up it seems right to talk about the **Easter story**. You know that we are using the bible verse John 10:10 to underpin all our work – *I have come that they may have life and live it to the full*. We want to be a big part of creating full lives for your kids, we get out of bed in the mornings believing we can play that part – great schools enrich their communities and offer opportunity. In the **Easter story** we also see that kind of passion and sacrifice; Jesus gave his own life to let others live theirs fully. Our efforts and sacrifices are small compared to that but the goal remains the same, we're here, just like you, to ensure the next generation have all the opportunities we did and many more. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.