



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

Ditton CE Junior School Newsletter – 1st April 2021

Thank you so much for returning the parent surveys to us and I will comment on the results after Easter. It is very reassuring to know that you appreciate **the efforts of the team** this term. They are pretty exhausted like the children! It's also nice to know that you have valued all the efforts Miss Johnson and I have put in to leading the school and seen them as a positive for change. We couldn't have done so much without the support (and sometimes challenge) of our great team, and of our Interim Executive Board, plus the wonderful children and yourselves. I'll still be in a day a week in support, which is a great pleasure although Miss Johnson does get to boss me about now. My wife says 'Good luck with that!' I'd also like to congratulate **Miss Johnson** on her success at securing the headship at Wateringbury Primary School for September recently.



Thank you all for being so great at remembering when **Forest School** sessions are. Feedback suggests the children are loving it and we will soon need to start thinking about our rotas for May onwards. We will write with schedules after Easter.

Thanks again for the PTA's work on their **Easter Smarties Challenge**. Don't forget this needs to come back by Friday 23rd April to help boost PTA funds for school resources.

We were also delighted that **Ross Terranova**, our Rector at St Peter's, has had the chance to talk with children this week, share the Easter message and lead Easter worships going into the break. The church continues to pray for the school and its community.



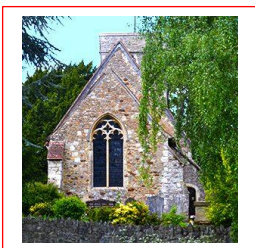
Colour Run – some of you may have wondered where this term's colour run has gone. For those that have no idea what I am talking about, you will find out by start of term 6. We hope to run this school tradition later in that final term!

Contact Tracing –if your child has been in school this week and develops coronavirus symptoms this coming Friday or Saturday and subsequently tests positive then please notify us by emailing jbryant@ditton-jun.kent.sch.uk to allow us to ParentMail accordingly. Should symptoms develop from Sunday onwards parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. There is no need to contact the school.

Quick reminder to check on **summer uniform** and purchase school shoes not trainers if buying new. The **new website** has gone live and there is a uniform page on there. Watch it as the site grows - www.ditton-jun.kent.sch.uk

We say good bye to **Mrs Gray**, our Teaching Assistant in 6MG, who will be leaving us after Easter to focus on her family after lots of hard work and care here, especially with her current class.

I'm not aware of whether the school shared certain policies with parents in the past but I wanted to update you on a couple. The website has a policies page where you can check our **Relationships and Sex Education policy** and please feedback via school office. After Easter we will have completed an update on the school's **Homework policy** which we will also share.



Richard Sutton-Smith

With **Easter** coming up here's a question for the children, what is Easter all about? There's this bunny, there's eggs and then there's crosses and Jesus being crucified, ascending to heaven then living again. But what is it all supposed to mean? I think, at its most simple, it is a **message of hope**. The disciples and followers of **Jesus** lost hope and saw everything crashing down around them but **Jesus** saw the positives knowing that the suffering he faced was part of a bigger plan, and that better days were ahead. That message of hope ties in neatly with how we approach schooling here – we aren't prepared to accept that there are limits for our children and we want to open up every opportunity for them to have full lives. We, like you, are ambitious for them and ambitious for ourselves as educators.

Happy Easter!