



*"To have life and live it to the full."*  
Ditton Junior Newsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

Happy Friday!

I had to double check my calendar this morning as I couldn't believe we have only one week of Term 5 left (I think this may be because I am in denial about my eldest finishing school next week!). Although guidance for schools has not really changed since Boris' latest announcement, we are all starting to find ways of preparing the children for going back to normality when we can.

For the first time since I have been at Ditton, I have been leading **collective worship** in the hall with the children (don't worry: only one bubble at a time). It has been joyful to hear the children singing and worshipping together again: another step towards normality.

Our housecaptains in Year 6 have taken back the responsibility for collating housepoints/dojo points from each class (again in a covid safe way) and sharing those in our celebration assembly. They are enjoying the responsibility but maybe not the maths!

As we move towards the tail end of the academic year, and another potential update in **covid restrictions**, we will take time to review some of the changes to policy and procedures that have been the by-products of teaching and learning during a pandemic. It may be that some of these routines will stay as they have actually been beneficial to our school community whereas there will be other controls that we will ditch as soon as it is safe to do so (and not be sorry to see them go!). Be assured that we will keep you updated as soon as we can.

Just a reminder that if your child has **symptoms of COVID-19** they should have a PCR test. The lateral flow tests are for asymptomatic testing and are not recommended for use in primary age children. Your child and the whole family (including siblings in school) should isolate until you have the results of the PCR test. Please see NHS site for further guidance: [NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

A HUGE 'thank you' for the kind donations of **water butts**! Our fabulous caretaker managed to get them attached to guttering before last weekend's downpour so they are filled to bursting! The children are loving being able to use water in forest school inspired sessions whilst not wasting tap water.

On Monday evening at 6:30pm, I will be holding a zoom meeting for Year 5 parents to talk through the process for **secondary school and 11+ applications**. This is not compulsory and if you know what you're doing there is no need to attend! I will record the meeting for anyone that can't make it.

Date for your diaries: Wednesday 9th June, there will be another **parent meeting** (again, virtually, I'm afraid) for all parents to have a chance to hear about the materials and content used for the Sex and Relationships Education that will be taught in Term 6. You will receive more information about this beforehand.

Thank you for helping your children to look so smart in their **uniform**. Having high expectations with things like uniform helps with the same message about learning in the classroom.

Please could we ask that you have the same expectations on their PE days (not including Forest School days!). **PE kit** should be a school PE top in their house colour with dark grey or black bottoms (e.g. shorts, tracksuit bottoms).

Ideally, these should be plain and unbranded. They can bring a plain sweatshirt (a plain black zip up one is ideal) if it's chilly.

We also ask that children with **long hair** have it tied up for school it is safer, easier for working in the classroom and helps prevent the spread of our crawly friends!

In collective worship this week we have been talking about **PERSEVERANCE** – how we can ask for help to persevere as well as supporting others. We watched the video of Derek Redmond at the 1992 Olympics and identified all the support and courage he had to persevere and continue.

This is the prayer we shared:

*Dear Lord,*

*sometimes it's hard to keep trying.*

*It's hard when things are tough or when everything seems to be going wrong.*

*Please help us never to give up but always to persevere.*

*Please help us to be people who encourage others to keep trying as we all aim for different goals in life.*

*Please help us to realize that we don't need to do things on our own and to be willing to ask for help.*

*Thank you for all the people who support and care for us.*

*Please help us to look for opportunities to help others.*

*Thank you that you never give up on us.*

*Amen.*



Miss Debbie Johnson – Interim Headteacher