

EWHURST CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

February 12th 2021

Newsletter 3

Today, 12th February 2021 is a very special day in the history of Ewhurst School, as exactly 175 years ago The Trust Deed was signed by the Rector and church wardens to establish a permanent school on this very site. In fact, Ewhurst School is one of the oldest schools in Surrey to still use the original buildings. Education has been provided in Ewhurst through close links with the parish church since the early 18th century when a charity school was set up during the ministry of William Whitfield, Rector of Ewhurst from 1693-1715. In 1822 the school became a national school. From 1833 government grants were available to schools sponsored by The National Society towards the cost of school buildings and from 1841 applicants were required to adopt a trust deed, stating the permanent dedication of the site to the purposes of education and allowing the right of government inspection. Revd Cooper gave Glebe land for the building of a new school and applied for a grant from the National Society in June 1845. After a delay due to the sudden death of Revd Cooper, The Trust Deed was signed on 12th February 1846. It is our intention to celebrate this event in a number of ways. Later this term the children will be making audio recording and videos of life in our school today. I also invite former pupils to make a video or audio recording of memories of their time at Ewhurst School. I hope that we can create a social history archive for future pupils to enjoy. There is an article in News & Views and also you will find further information and photos on the [school website under News and Events](#) I very much hope we can, in the summer term, invite past pupils to the school to celebrate this historic event. [Please follow this link to our virgin money giving page](#)

As we end a busy, but very different half term, I would like to congratulate everyone learning at home, you have been amazing in very challenging circumstances and you should be really proud of all you have done. Whatever you have managed depending on your family circumstances will have been of value for your child(ren).

A few highlights from the staff team:

Mrs Macey said, "Apple class have enjoyed learning about different countries around the world. We have enjoyed doing aboriginal art with finger prints and I also loved seeing the art work from the children at home"

Mrs Beavis said, "Science week was great fun and I was particularly touched by the video that Vanessa Ford made especially for the children explaining why she is so passionate about Planet Earth. If anyone missed this, I have put a copy in the Files Tab of the Whole School Team; general channel. I have enjoyed the catch-up sessions with the children at home, as well as seeing their lovely learning via Tapestry, thank you so much for taking the time to upload this".

Mrs Stevenson said, "My personal highlight has been science week and the enjoyment the children got out of it. It was lovely to watch some of the egg drop videos that were uploaded to Tapestry. The children have all told me how much they loved the coding too. It has been lovely to share some of the work that children have done at home with the children in school and for the children to see one another in our live learning/ catch ups/ those in school seeing their friends during live learning too".

Mrs Martin said, "Cherry class have really enjoyed learning about The Great Fire of London in school and at home; writing a newspaper report has been a highlight. The internet safety activities this week have been another area of great collaborative learning with Holly class".

Seeing the work upload onto Tapestry is inspiring for all the staff and we are full of admiration to all of your learning from home- some truly wonderful work is being shared.

Lent

The start of Lent is on Wednesday 17th February. Pancake day on Tuesday 16th! Traditionally, calendars are only for Advent, but the Guildford Diocesan Education team are introducing an online Calendar of Kindness for use during the season of Lent. Because Lent starts on the Wednesday during half term, they have started this calendar from the first day back after half term with the story of Jesus in the desert. The calendar covers some of the events of Jesus' ministry & life over the 3 years between Jesus' temptation and his Resurrection. The calendar runs to the last day of term, so you celebrate Easter a little early. I attach a Lent Calendar of Kindness 2021 and Love yourself through Lent poster.

Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 9th February

The children have all had the opportunity to learn more about keeping safe when using the internet this week. You will find further material in the Whole School Team, a channel called 'Safer Internet Day 2021' and then in the files you can find

'resources' 'teachers pack' and a film titled 'what can you trust online' (film for 5-11 year olds) Other websites you may find useful are <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> www.thinkuknow.co.uk which provides advice on a variety of online activities. Also www.ourpact.com is a free download for Apple or android devices which parents can use to control on and off time/ blocks for apps and can block the downloading of apps.

Mental Health Week

At this time, it's so important to stay connected to family, friends and your community, whether that be with your school or church. We have all made tremendous adaptations to stay connected, but at times we have all experienced a range of emotions and so have the children. Attached are some simple videos produced by the ClickView. I have selected [video confidence](#) [video resilience](#) [video motivation](#) you can also find others on each Teams class general channel.

Learning from Home Questionnaire Review

Thank you to everyone who has taken the trouble to complete the questionnaire. The staff have appreciated so many positive comments from you. However, we also recognise that not everyone finds Microsoft Teams easy to navigate. We are, at times equally frustrated with the fluctuation in local internet connection. To give you a little additional context; so much is also new to us and we are all learning and persevering together. We try our very best to troubleshoot our issues and issues that you have at home as fast as we are able. Currently, our staffing capacity has reduced by nearly 50% for a number of reasons to a skeleton level to enable the school to keep open for critical worker, SEN & vulnerable children. As a result, every member of the team who is able to work on site is required to, both in support of teaching and learning in school **and** at home. In addition, all staff undertake extra roles in following strict sanitation protocols which take up a lot of time. I have become very used to cleaning toilets each lunchtime which I have now done for six months! I am extremely grateful to the school team and the COVID governor committee for the huge amount of work required in this pandemic to support all the children and you, our families.

Learning from home from 22nd February

To allow everyone a restful half term the class home learning will be uploaded to teams on Friday 19th February. Bug club opportunities will be updated then. Reading books are available for collection for any parent who wishes to do this a part of daily exercise or shopping. (please return labelled packs)

Apple class: 22nd February/1st March - Mrs Macey has emailed Apple Class. Holly class: Collection on MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY at 2.00pm- 2.30pm Cherry class: Collection on MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY at 1.00pm- 1.45pm

Easter Bonnets

It's never too early for your children to start thinking about making their Easter Bonnet for the End of Term Service on Thursday 1st April at 9.15 (we hope!) I realise that only Cherry class has experienced our parade, which is where the children have designed and created wonderful bonnets/hats/caps at home and parade to church to celebrate the meaning of Easter. Traditionally, the winning bonnet is selected by a member of the church team and awarded an Easter egg! There are also a number of runner-ups in each class as there are so many creations to enjoy. Top tip: The clergy really appreciate child made creations.

An additional email has been sent to all families attending school currently with a timeline of reporting COVID 19 protocols to the school over half term. It is vital that we know of any symptomatic families as soon as possible to protect our whole school community.

Please keep safe this half term.
With best wishes
Yours sincerely



Jane Dyer
Headteacher

Pause for thought: Continue to take time to enjoy the wonderful natural environment we have on our doorstep. Going for a walk and looking for signs of spring is such a benefit to our mental wellbeing.

Awards

05/02/21 – Working scientifically

Star of the Week

Apple	Holly	Cherry
Aliya	Florence	Sebastian P

Headteacher's Award

Eric	Amy	Chloe
Dougie	Bonnie	Sofia
Herbie	Charlotte	Sebastien D

12/02/2021– Individual Awards

Star of the Week

Apple	Holly	Cherry
Arabella	Ted	Ollie

Headteacher's Award

Alex	Orlaith	Harvey
Freddie	Olivia	Florence
Johnnie	Thalia	Elsa