

PALACE WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

What do I know!

I start every newsletter by looking at the one I wrote the week before (so that I don't repeat myself too much!). Last week I started with the heading 'A busy week'. Well, this week has certainly put that into perspective!

This week has been busy in the way that we always expected would come at some point. We didn't think it would come quite in the way that it did, with four classes having to be closed and me being told to self-isolate, but the team and community have rallied wonderfully to ensure that the children are feeling safe and are continuing with their excellent learning.

The fact that COVID stopped being something that only affected other schools and became a reality in ours has caused some understandable anxieties. I know we have said it before, but we really are taking as many measures as we possibly can to keep the community safe. I had a long conversation with Public Health England yesterday as I wanted to be absolutely sure that we were doing all that we can. We talked through our risk assessment and she confirmed to me that we have as many systems in place as we can. She also said that we have done really well to limit the bubble closures in the way that we have and to have also contained them within the bubbles. This was reassuring for me to hear and so I hope that it also helps to reassure you.

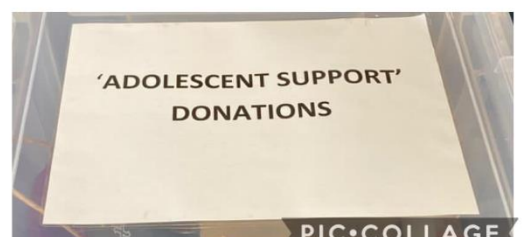
We are very much in this for the long haul and, whilst we will continue to take every measure we can, we do need to prepare ourselves for the fact that this is likely to continue for a while yet. However, I have seen this week how strong the community is (not that I needed

reminding!) The staff who are working from home have been putting up learning for the children to complete remotely and we really want to make sure that this doesn't stand in our way of supporting our children's learning.

I know it is not as easy for us to talk on the playground, but if you do have any concerns, or want to talk to us, please do get in contact with us and we will arrange the best time and mode of communication!

Non Uniform Day

Thank you to everyone who brought in products to support KCC West Kent Children's Services Adolescent Support Team. We really appreciate you showing your support for this very worthy cause. We know that your donations will be very gratefully received.



Christmas Dinner

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for Christmas Dinner. We have had an overwhelming response which is fantastic! We are now going through the process of planning the best way to celebrate our School Christmas Dinner in a COVID safe way.

And finally

I'm sure many of you have started opening your Advent calendars this week. There are certainly now a huge range of advent calendars with various gifts inside. Many of you will have seen Mrs Childs talk about a book advent which is a fantastic idea (we have one for Arthur now), but why do we have Advent calendars at all – do the children (and adults) see past the chocolate? With an Advent calendar, we only eat one chocolate each day. It means that we get to enjoy one small treat each day in the lead-up to the big treat of Christmas Day. It helps to remind us that we have to wait, that we can't have everything at once. It also helps us to enjoy the little things as we spread out the Christmas fun, because if we rush too quickly to the main event of Christmas Day, we miss out on the anticipation and the excitement. If we opened all the doors of the Advent calendar on 1 December and ate all the chocolates then, imagine how we would feel for every other day of Advent. We might feel a bit empty, like the Advent calendar! It's important that children know the 'why' of things, so spend a bit of time explaining this to them – it might also stop them pestering you for an extra chocolate!

Have a great weekend

Mark Chatley

Dates: 4th Jan & 7th June 2021 INSET days.

16th December Christmas Lunch
(booking has closed)
Christmas Jumper Day

18th December Last Day

5th January Return to School

Letters sent home (parentmails)

All Many COVID-19 updates
Non-Uniform Day reminders
Checking In and Remote Learning
Friends' AGM
Pantomime
First Aid Procedures
Logging on to Microsoft Teams
Microsoft Teams

Yr2 Research Project with Miss Ridout

Monk's Sparkle & Shine

EYFS Reminders

Yr6 Hadlow Rural Community School

Leop's Request for items for Scarecrow



Superstar Corner

Ben in Hippos was awarded a green blue Peter badge which he received for his brilliant poster highlighting the dangers of plastic pollution. Mrs Kyte will be particularly pleased!