

# Chenies School Newsletter

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020

### Headteacher's News

#### Staff News

I am sorry to tell you that for personal reasons Mrs Woods has resigned from her role as one of our learning support assistants. She has been a valuable member of the Early Years staff for eight years and prior to that helped as a volunteer whilst both her children attended the school. Most recently all of the children have thoroughly enjoyed working with her in the Friday cooking sessions. She will be greatly missed and I know you will join with me in thanking her for all she has done for your children and wishing her well for the future.



#### Children in Years 2,3,4 and 5

As you will be aware the government announcement on Monday recognised that it would not be possible for all primary school children to return to school before September although they would like schools that have the capacity to do so in smaller class sizes to do so. I regret to say that having looked at all the options open to me we just do not have the staffing capacity to accommodate additional year groups of children within the current guidelines. I am proud of the fact that we have been able to offer full time education to all three of the year groups we were asked to and did so from the moment we were permitted to do so. I know however that not being able to expand our offer will be a big disappointment to many of you and I will of course keep this under review. I can assure you that if there are any further changes to current regulations I will look again at the possibility of further expansion.

As staff we do recognise however that many children are missing their class and staff want to offer all of our children some opportunities to have face to face conversations with their teacher before September. We have come up with the idea that we will offer an appointment system in a similar way to the way we run parents evening. Parents will be able to drive to the turning circle at their chosen appointment time and the children can have a face to face contact with their teacher across a table at the main gate. This would also be an opportunity to return library books and choose some new ones to take home. By arranging the meetings this way it would ensure that we keep within the current social distancing guidelines and are not increasing the number of people on the school premises. I hope to have the appointment booking system in place through the school website early next week and will send a separate message when the appointments are available to book.

#### A message from Chorleywood4refugees

##### **SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS - The Gift of Cream Tea**

Next week is Refugee Week and, in the current climate, refugees need our help now more than ever. Here's a simple plan to give the children from across the village the chance to once again work their magic, raising awareness and funds for refugees.

For this year only, we will be replacing our popular Pop Up Café at Chorleywood Station with **The Gift of Cream Tea**.

**The Gift of Cream Tea** is a delicious cream tea of two scones, strawberry jam and a pot of clotted cream that's available in a takeaway pack for children to give as a gift.

It's very simple:

1. Parents [fill out this form](#) requesting a "Gift of Cream Tea" by midnight on Monday 15th June 2020
2. Parents select a time slot between 12-2pm on Wednesday 17th June 2020 to collect the gift from a pick up point in Chorleywood
3. After collection, children are encouraged to write a message of kindness or hope on the Gift packaging
4. Parents (and possibly children) deliver the Gift to their chosen recipient!

In the spirit of the Pop Up Café, we are giving away **The Gift of Cream Tea** FREE OF CHARGE and are simply inviting people to make a donation to the charity, Safe Passage, at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chorleywood-pop-up-for-refugees>

Thanks for your help  
Chorleywood4Refugees

### **Do you know how to keep your children safe online?**

During lockdown, many of us have turned to the internet to stay in touch, which goes for children as well as adults. Sadly, some criminals are using these extraordinary circumstances as a way to exploit and target young people when they are online.

Since the government restrictions were introduced Thames Valley Police have seen an increase in reports of online sexual abuse involving children and are urging parents to take this opportunity to have honest conversations about online safety with their children and to review privacy settings on the apps and social networks that they are using.

Online sexual abuse is any type of sexual abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, online gaming or using mobile phones. In some cases this involves children being groomed or exploited by an adult.

Any child or young person that uses the internet or has a smartphone could be a victim of online sexual abuse and they can be at risk from people they know, as well as from strangers. Those they are speaking to online may not be who they say they are.

The signs of online sexual abuse can be hard to spot and in these unprecedented times it is possible that these changes in behaviour may be mistakenly attributed to the change of circumstance or routine in which we all find ourselves.

These signs include; hiding computer screens or taking phone calls away from others, being secretive about what they're doing and who they're talking to, sudden personality changes or mood swings, engaging less with family and their usual friends and referring to a 'new friend' but offering limited information about them.

If you are concerned for the safety of a child, call Thames Valley Police on 101, or the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000.

**To support parents during COVID-19, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection division are producing fortnightly activity packs to help discuss staying safe online with your children. These age-appropriate resources, containing two 15-minute activities for each age group, can be found at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)**

**Now is a good time to review the privacy settings of the apps that they are using with them and explaining the importance of putting these in place. Social media and games with chat functionality can be used safely, providing the right precautions are taken. Advice and guidance for over 60 of the most popular apps and games have been created by the NSPCC and O2 and can be found at [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)**

**Additional interactive training for parents and information sheets about popular apps is available [here](#) on The Key parental resource hub. I do encourage you to look at this information to ensure you are doing all you can to protect your child. I have also included the link on the e safety page of our [school website](#).**

Thames Valley Police continues to intercept and bring to justice those who attempt to exploit children online and encourage anyone who is concerned about the sexual behaviour of an adult or a child, to call 101 or the Stop it Now helpline on 0808 1000 900.

I wish you all have an enjoyable weekend

Suzanne Powell

# Photographs from This Week



**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Inset Days**

## **TERM DATES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020 / 2021**

### **Autumn Term 2020**

Inset Day  
Inset Day  
Terms Starts  
Half Term  
Inset Day  
Term Ends

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December

### **Spring Term 2021**

Inset Day  
Term Starts  
Half Term  
Term Ends

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April @ 1.30pm

### **Summer Term 2021**

Inset Day  
Term Starts  
Half Term  
Term Ends

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
31<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July @ 1.30pm