



# St Osyth C of E Primary School

A member of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

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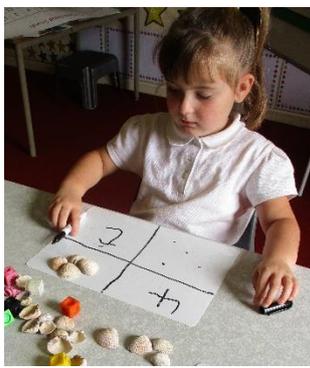
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Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support and understanding with all that we now have to do in school, especially the staggered start and end to the school day. Your children have adapted very well indeed to the various different ways of doing things during the school day. These photographs show how well the Year 1 children in R1 LK have been working this week.



If your child is in 3/4G, 3/4T, 2K or 1/2A, please ensure that they, and you, follow the one-way lines outside the classrooms – along the raised pathway directly outside the classrooms. By doing this we can help everyone to be safe through socially distancing at the start and end of the school day. Thank you.

As has happened since the start of the pandemic, rules, guidance and information keeps changing and so I think that it is useful to make clear what happens if a child has symptoms that could suggest they have COVID19. Whether the child is in school or not, every child that has symptoms of COVID 19 must isolate and be tested. This is also true of all members in their household. If the test result is negative and the child no longer has the symptoms then they can return to school. If the test result is positive and if the test result if negative but the child still has the symptoms then they must continue to isolate. Children, and adults, with a positive test result and/or on-going symptoms must isolate for 10 days, from the first day the symptoms appeared, and other people in their households must isolate for 14 days.



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Our virtual workshops are working well – at least when the WIFI is strong enough to enable the video stream not to stutter. It was so good to have Rev Sharon lead our worship on Monday – from the comfort of the vicarage.



Some children have not yet brought into school their own water bottle from home. If your child is one of these, it would be very helpful if they did have a water bottle with their name on. As children can not use the water fountains, at the moment, every time a child has wanted a drink of water, a member of staff has provided one in a disposable cup. This is producing a lot of nonrecyclable plastic waste and it is requiring staff to sometimes be more ‘waiter’/‘waitress’ than teacher. We want children to be able to be hydrated when they are at school but we also want to reduce waste and for teachers and learning support assistants to be able to focus on teaching.

Next Wednesday, the children in Years 1 to 6 will take part in karate workshops. These were very popular when we ran them last year. This year, these workshops will be slightly different so that they can take place in a COVID secure manner. This is one example of how we are working hard to see that your children still experience and enjoy a full and rich curriculum whilst working within the constraints of being COVID secure.

We are delighted with the way the children are so interested in our chickens. Looking after animals and being with animals can be very beneficial for the well-being of some children and we are seeing this already. It's great when a plan comes together! Soon, we will be making the eggs available to families. We will have a rota for this as the chickens are laying about 40 eggs each week. We will be asking for donations from families for the eggs that they have. Please be aware that the eggs have not been washed or been through any cleaning process. As with all such eggs, and when animals have been handled, hands must be washed after touching. With our egg stall, we will have a notice about this.



Sadly, both the PTFA outdoor cinema and Giggle City events have been postponed until such time that local and national guidance allows them to take place. The PTFA are, very sensibly I am sure you will agree, putting the safety of children and families before anything else.

Just to provide some reassurance and to scotch any unfounded gossip and rumour, there have been no confirmed cases of coronavirus in school this term – in relation to children and staff.

Best Regards,

Mr M Carter-Tufnell (Headteacher)