



ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full

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ECS news

"You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, ." Psalm 16:11

Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents

As another week of this strangest of school terms finishes and the end of the academic year draws closer, our staff are excited about the prospect of returning to somewhere nearer normality in September and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming back those children in years 2, 3 and 4 that we haven't been able to see much of in person this term—we are really missing them all. It has been fantastic to be able to see the children remotely, of course—whilst it isn't quite the same we are proud of the children's commitment to their remote learning sessions; we have had children joining sessions from the beach, and even from those as far away as Estonia—just brilliant.

Planning for our summer holiday club provision is going well too and we have had lots of interest. If you would like places and haven't requested them yet please do so by 9:00am on Monday morning—we have less flexibility than usual because of the need to keep children in bubbles and so are unlikely to be able to accommodate any last minute requests.

Next week Year 2 parents will be sent details of our remote Tie Assembly and I am sure our Year 6 parents are looking forward to the broadcast of Year 6 Leavers' Assembly on Thursday. We will make this available for all to see if they wish—I know that our Reception Little Friends always love seeing their Big Friends' leaving ceremony and, of course, in normal circumstances, all children in school would share this event.

We had a wonderful surprise this week as one of our families was able to organise a £1,000 donation to the school having sold their house through Savills estate agent. Savills have committed to donating this amount for each house sale they make on behalf of one of our school families. If you are thinking of putting your house on the market please consider using them.

Our Vision:

To be a safe, happy, loving community where excellent teaching inspires children to learn and explore, care for each other and believe that they can make a difference.



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I am sure your children are looking forward to finding out who their class teacher/s will be and who will be in their class next year for those groups who are being mixed. We expect this information to be with you very soon— the teachers are making arrangements to meet their new classes online for those children not in school. Please keep an eye on Teams for your child's slot as it would be wonderful if everyone could take part.

If your circumstances have changed during lockdown and you are now entitled to certain benefits, you may be eligible for free school meals. This eligibility provides a lot more than a daily meal, it provides the school with additional funding which can be directed to your child for education support, co-curricular clubs etc. This funding currently applies for 6 years after your eligibility expires so it is definitely worth claiming. Please see the information later in the newsletter and speak to the ladies in the school office if you think you may be eligible.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement, and look forward to seeing you all next week either in person or remotely at one of our assemblies.

With best wishes

Cathy Bell
Headteacher

Staffing News

At this time of year it is inevitable that we will be some changes to our staffing structure from September. Before we get there though, it is lovely to have Mrs Jones back with us from next week following her maternity leave—Mrs Jones will work within our key worker bubbles next week and will return to working with our Reception children in September. Thank you to Mrs Webb who has covered Mrs Jones' maternity leave for doing such an amazing job—it has been wonderful to have her in school more often and she will continue to be very much part of our staff team providing cover teaching next year.

We are very sad to be saying 'au revoir' to Mrs Solomon who teaches part time in year 6 Pullman Class. Mrs Solomon has been such a valuable member of our staff team—she has always been willing to go the extra mile. She has worked with the football team, accompanied children on residential and much more besides. The good news is that Mrs Solomon has agreed to stay on our supply teacher list so we will still see her around school albeit on a less regular basis.

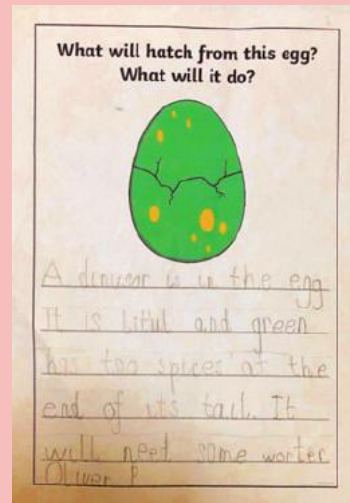
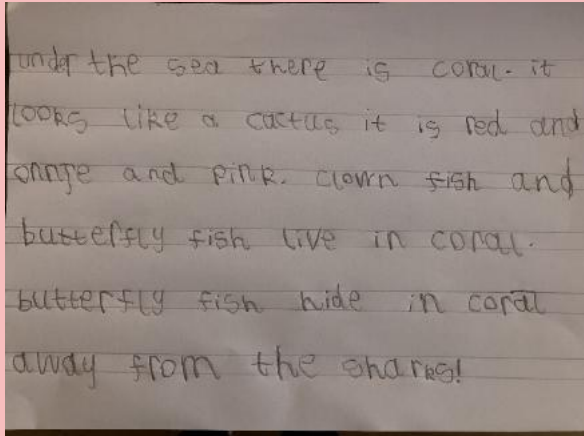
Last but not least, after 20 years of service to the children of ECS, Mrs Annable has decided to retire at the end of the year so that she can spend more time with her new grandchildren. Mrs Annable has worked with children across the school to support their learning and has had a particular role to play in supporting the arts, and in particular, dance. She has worked with children enabling them to achieve the Bronze Arts Award and those involved in dance projects and has choreographed many dances in productions over the years—she is an especial fan of the year 1 penguin dance. Our thanks go to Claire for all she has contributed over the years—we will miss you.

We are also saying goodbye to Miss Williamson, our Year 1 LSA who will be undertaking her teacher training at St Mary's, Twickenham next year. We know she will make a fantastic teacher so our loss is definitely the profession's gain—good luck Isobel. We are also bidding a farewell to Mrs Howarth and Mrs Wolff from the school office.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Carleton, a highly experienced year 6 teacher, to our Phase 3 team next year, and Miss Hunnab who will be joining us as a Learning Support Assistant. We are looking forward to having them join our team.

This week's highlights

Sebby in Reception has worked really hard on his handwriting—and has learnt a lot about life under the sea too.



Olivers (Reception) writing this week while learning from home

Hard at work in Mr Cheerful bubble.

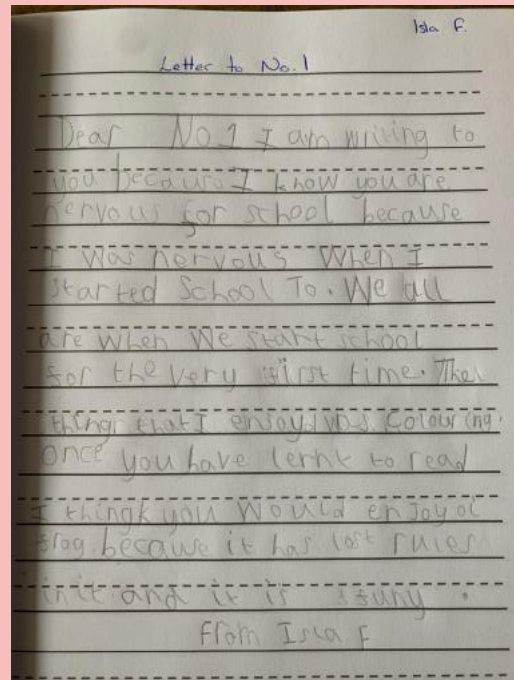
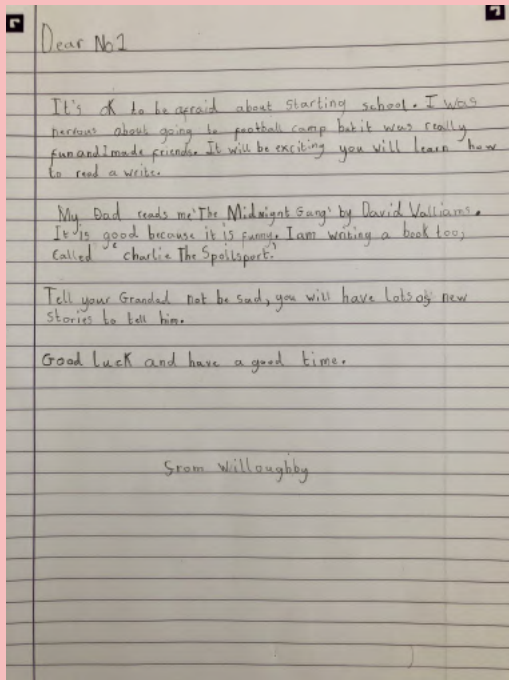


Yr 1 Gruffalo bubble testing their helicopters after learning about Tim Peake and the International Space Station.



A wonderful poem by Tess in Year 3 in the style of the 'Adventures of Isabel'.

This week's highlights



Isla F and Willoughby wrote these lovely letters to a character in a book about starting school. So thoughtful and supportive—well done.



And in key worker bubble fun, Christian and Jack enjoyed lunch in this super den....



....and we all enjoyed burying George. The children were very careful to make sure she was happy throughout—she told us it was warm and cosy—despite being covered in dust afterwards. A super fun playtime!



Extra Support

We appreciate that things aren't easy for any of us at the current time and there may be even more pressures on families as lockdown continues to ease. If you need additional support with anything please contact us. Do not think that your family needs may not be important enough to seek help—we will do all we can to support you. You can contact the office on office@esherchurchschool.org.uk or on 01372 463 139.

Free School Meal Eligibility

If you think you might be entitled to free school meals please get in touch with our office staff urgently. We can check your eligibility quickly with just your name and National Insurance Number. This week I have been able to arrange for £360 worth of food vouchers to a family who contacted us after the note in last week's newsletter because their circumstances have changed during the Covid-19 outbreak.

You may be eligible for free school meals if you are now eligible for any of the following:

- Income Support
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance
 - support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
 - the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
 - Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
 - Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

During the outbreak the government are also temporarily extending free school meal eligibility to include some groups (subject to household income) that have no recourse to public funds, including:

- children of Zambrano carers
- children of families with no recourse to public funds with a right to remain in the UK on grounds of private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- children of families receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 **who are also** subject to a no recourse to public funds restriction
- children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

If you think you might be eligible for free school meals please contact the school immediately. It is easy for us to check and we will be able to get vouchers to you if your child is at home during the school closure. Furthermore the school will receive additional funding to further support your child's education which can be used to support extra curricular activities, trips etc too.

Support from school and church

If you, or your child, are finding life a bit of a struggle at the moment and need some extra support please do get in touch with us. Our Home School Link Worker and ELSA support is still available by phone and we have had many parents and staff volunteer to reach out to anyone in need and offer any support they can. The staff teams at our local churches are also very happy to offer pastoral support. So whether you need something practical or just to have a chat with someone do please let us know. We will be really happy to help.

Notices

West End Esher Cricket Club

West End CC will be running cricket camp throughout the holidays. Full information can be found on their website at <http://www.weecc.co.uk/w/>

Surrey Arts—Instrumental Lessons at Esher Church School

Surrey Arts provides school-based instrumental and vocal tuition for children in the county. Pupils can be taught in school and receive 10 lessons each term. Surrey Arts also offers a wide range of ensembles in which your child can play as soon as they are ready.

If you are interested in your child taking lessons at school, we need your application soon.

Please apply on-line at the Surrey CC website:

<https://online.surreycc.gov.uk/esuite/esuite.nsf/openonlineform?openagent&fcunid=006DD740AF85249E8025728B005E8EBF>

Surrey Arts - Music homepage:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/arts/music>


Piano lessons are available from Amanda Allen at the school from September for children from Year 3 upwards. Amanda has 17 years experience at ECS enjoying positive relationships with pupils, parents and staff alike. Children can be prepared for ABRSM exams or other repertoire for fun. Please call 07791 025913 for further information.

Singing and violin lessons are also available from Lisa Hartley. Please contact the office for more details.

Job Centres

In these uncertain times, many people are facing job losses. The local job centre has been in touch and asked us to remind parents that they are there for anyone needing help or support. Please visit www.jobcentrerearne.com to find your local branch.

Notices



Nasal Flu Givers Needed

Children and Family Health Surrey are looking for Nasal Flu Givers to give the Nasal Flu Immunisation to children aged between 4 and 10 years over a 9 week period (Sep-Dec) throughout schools in Elmbridge.

To apply please visit the NHS Jobs website.
Job Reference: 074-B5708-9

Closing date: Monday 29th June

For information please contact
miranda.noakes@nhs.net

