



ESHER CHURCH SCHOOL

Christ at the Centre; Life to the Full

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ECS **news**

May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**. Romans 15:13

Friday 15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start with saying how very proud I am to be part of the amazing ECS community. We are so fortunate at ECS to have a wonderful team of staff who demonstrate their passion on a daily basis and rise to every occasion. In my teaching career this is certainly the most challenging obstacle we have had to overcome. Our parents and carers are beyond supportive and as for our children ... they are the superstars of this situation by far. I have loved hearing about the live lessons and seeing the work submitted and even about singing along to our worship and Christian meditation.

Thank you for all your love, patience and unfailing support. All of which are so appreciated by us all. I have included some quotes in this newsletter to give you a flavour of the support within our community, all of these have been shared with staff and are such a joy to read and reflect on.

We always want to strive to be the very best we can be, so later next week I will send out a short parent survey about our Remote learning offer to parents. This alongside parents evenings and your correspondence will allow us to measure our strengths and see where we could endeavour to improve further. We always welcome your views and thoughts to support us to evolve further.

The parents' evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday are an opportunity for the teachers to talk about: engagement with remote learning; Autumn assessments; learning review day targets; any potential interventions needed and; general wellbeing.

Wellbeing Wednesday was a huge success and we loved seeing your creations, please enjoy the images in this newsletter. We simply could not include them all but if you missed the Friday assembly then please take a little look to see even more of your wonderful art work.

Have a restful weekend, whilst it is chilly it is still so refreshing to be outside every day. Enjoy what is around us, the beauty of nature is everywhere. Stay safe and well.

Caroline McLennan

Acting Headteacher

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.

Quotes from our parents/ carers

'I would just like to let you know that we think that you and your team are doing the most unbelievable job – it must be incredibly difficult to adapt to all that is being requested (demanded!!) of you and you have risen to the challenge and gone beyond.

The switch to online classes has been incredibly well managed and my child has really enjoyed today.

The lessons are so well planned and interesting and the materials easy to use. Seeing and hearing my child watching the iPad intently during his lessons and then quietly singing along during the Christian Meditation literally brought a tear to our eyes.'

'Thank you to you and all the staff for a great first day at school for my two today. Great to see that they both had teachers from their years in class with them and that they were supported in their learning.'

'I just wanted to say a huge thank you for all of the ridiculous hours you must be needing to work at the moment. What a mess! You must be absolutely flat out, confused and completely stressed by all this uncertainty and every chop and change in the rules and regulations. Please be assured that your hard work and dedication is very much appreciated and we know you'll make the best decision for the school and children.'

'I cannot imagine what a tough day you and the staff have had! I really feel for you having to plan for whichever way Boris goes later tonight. Thank you for keeping us updated and I hope you and the staff are managing to keep your morale up in trying circumstances.'

'I just wanted to say thank you for all the hard work you and the teaching team must have put into the new online system. Your assembly today and the children's calls went really well and backed up by the informative timetables this afternoon. I really appreciate the new structure and am confident it will help home schooling run much more smoothly and be more productive for me, as I'm sure it will for lots of other parents too.

Thank you also for all the comms you sent out to the parents this week, it was really reassuring to have several emails letting us know what to expect and when.'

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Quotes from our parents/ carers

'I just wanted to take 5 mins out of my day to say a massive thank you!!!!

Thank you to you for the fantastic online support and learning, thank you to all the teachers who are completely going out of their comfort zone to teach online in a live class or in a recorded class.

Thank you for the support materials you provide, the constant availabilities of the teachers and their wonderful enthusiastic attitude.

I have been so impressed with Esher Church and how you have all handled what is essentially a complete nightmare. Both my kids (so far) seem really happy with the learning and are FAR better this time round.

Please can you pass on my thanks to all the teachers from us here at home.

And finally a special mention to X who is clearly a fabulous teacher and has such a wonderful way with the little ones. My child looks forward to seeing her just to say hi and that special live time for them makes a MASSIVE difference to him.

Thank you for all the hard work - it really has been excellent and you should all be so proud.

Please god let them be back with you soon as I have discovered I am NOT and NEVER wish to be a teacher :-)'

'Just a note to say how brilliant this week has been, from a year 4 perspective. X is absolutely awesome doing the online teaching, she's fabulous. X and X have likewise done a great job. My child has loved having the guidance of his teachers for English and Maths and the story time at the end of the day. Also your daily assemblies are uplifting and get the day off to a good start. My child has been much more focused this week, with the school structure, and the online lessons. So thank you so much from us all.'

'Loving the children singing away this morning!

Loving the new structure with a timetable, feels far less overwhelming. Well done Team Esher Church School!

Thanks for all the communications and remote learning tools.'

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This week's highlights

Reception Wellbeing Art



This week's highlights

Phase 1

Year 1 Wellbeing Art



This week's highlights

Phase 2

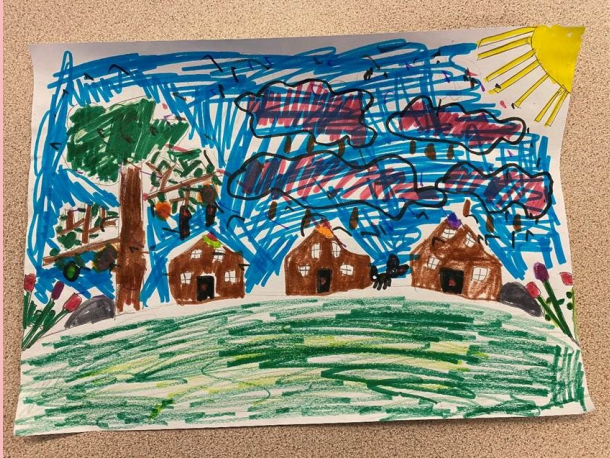
Year 2 Wellbeing Art



This week's highlights

Phase 3

Year 3 Wellbeing Art



This week's highlights

Phase 3

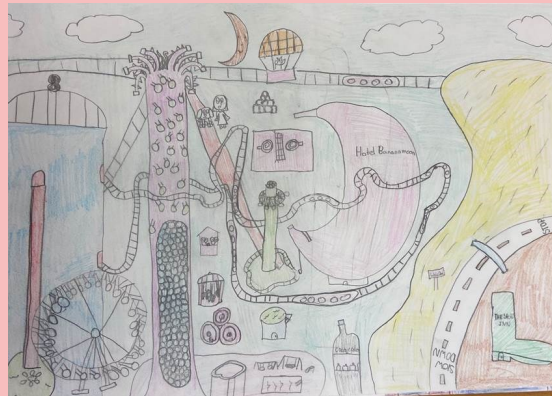
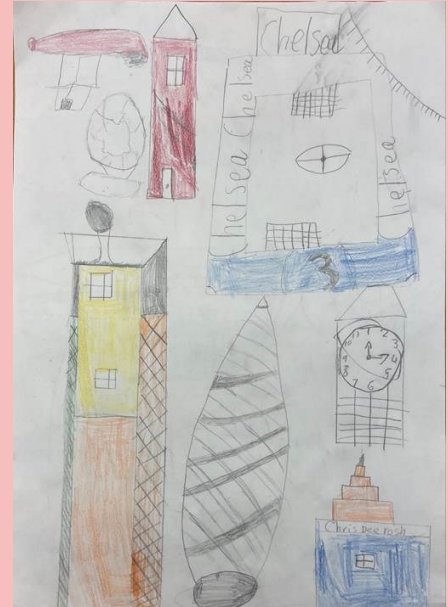
Year 4 Wellbeing Art



This week's highlights

Phase 3

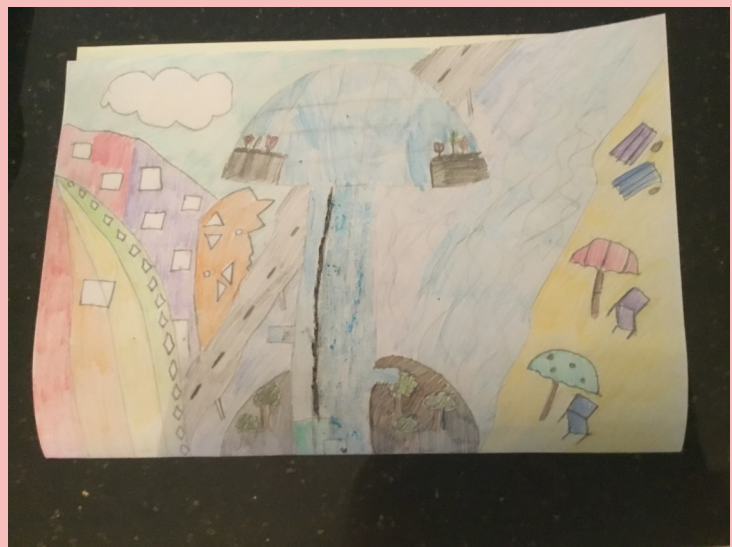
Year 5 Wellbeing Art



This week's highlights

Phase 3

Year 6 Wellbeing Art



Notices

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.

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 it means that 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.

Printing

Bourne Estate Agents in Esher have very kindly offered to print out children's worksheets, if you do not have printing facilities at home.

Please email any requests to esheradmin@bourneestateagents.com

Work will be printed and left to one side at the agents office to safely collect.

ECSA news

Auction of Promises and Prizes

The ECSA are planning an Auction of Promises and Prizes in the New Year. This will be an event at which 'promises and prizes' will be donated by individuals, companies connected within our school community or from the local area and beyond which will be auctioned off to raise money for the new Library. Everyone can get involved because every promise or prize donated, no matter how small, will be sold. You could pledge to bake a cake for a special occasion or offer to walk someone's dog. Anything and everything helps raise money for this exciting fundraising event for the school.

ALL DONATIONS BIG OR SMALL are needed!!

We are relying on incredibly generous local businesses and individuals to make some fabulous promises. Our aim is to have something for everyone.

Ideas include: babysitting, dog walking, a haircut, the use of a holiday home for the weekend, gardening, cooking a meal, a signed sports shirt, an experience day. Use your imagination - often the best promises are things money can't buy!

If you are able to donate something or have a contact with a business who might, please contact youreкса@gmail.com. Please help us make this a fantastic fundraising event for the school.