



The Chiltern School

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February 2021

Headteachers Message:

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

We are now at the end of a very difficult half term and start to 2021. I wanted to start by saying a huge thank you to each and everyone of you for your hard work, support and resilience. I wanted to share through this newsletter some of the highlights of the last 6 weeks. Despite all the difficulties there have been some amazing moments, we have created these together as a school community. They demonstrate the contribution everyone has made and how important our partnership with you is.

It has been another really tough 6 weeks with lots of uncertainty and anxiety with demands on everyone that at times felt unmanageable. However, I think you'll see from these amazing snippets, we can all be proud. Kindness, courage and humour continues to be the foundation of our journey together.

Remote learning looked different this time around and it's been fabulous to have so many pupils and families involved in live lessons. What a great opportunity for pupils to stay connected to each other and with staff. We've been really impressed, teachers have discovered new talents and creative ways to engage young people remotely, whilst pupils on site have adapted to working in a slightly different way too.

We appreciate this has meant some of you, as facilitators, have had to develop some new skills and we take our hats off for your continued support.

Thank you for all your messages of support and most importantly I hope that you and your children are safe and well. We will come through this pandemic as an even better school and community. I am incredibly proud to be the headteacher of such a fantastic school and you should be incredibly proud of your hard work and that of your child/children.



School returns Monday 22nd February

COVID 19 update

Lateral Flow testing—staff

In line with DfE guidance we are now undertaking asymptomatic Lateral Flow testing of all staff twice a week, this is an enormous task given we have over 200 members of staff across both sites. The impact of this is that we unfortunately, had several confirmed cases of COVID 19 in school.

With the support of CBC Corporate Health and Safety team and Public Health protection officers we continue to constantly review our risk assessment and have put a raft of additional control measures in place to keep staff and pupils on site as safe as possible. We want to reassure you that the school's safety measures are confirmed as robust and above expectation. Whilst we put a number of safety measures into place to protect our staff and pupils, the realities outside of the school gates are a complex variable and reality.

Lateral Flow testing– pupils

Following the half term break Pupils in Phase 2 and 3 whom we have consent for, will be tested on Monday and Thursday of the first week, where they will tolerate it. Staff have put together some resources to help make the process as easy as possible.

Vaccinations

Staff in special schools have been prioritised for receiving the vaccination and so far 60 members of staff have taken up this offer. This is an optional choice for staff which brings in an additional safety measure for our community earlier than anticipated. This is not itself without worry, many staff have suffered from effects of the vaccine over the last week which has impacted on staffing levels. We are pleased this is added to the tools we have to help support our community's safety.

Wider reopening

After half term, we hope that more of our children will return to school whilst we wait for guidance on the lifting of wider restrictions. The Prime Minister announced an initial target date from the government of 8th March 2021 for the full return to school. However, the government have indicated that this will only occur if existing pressures on the NHS have been reduced, infections levels have dropped (along with the R value), and the vaccination programme is still on-track. The government's decision on this will not be confirmed before 22nd February 2021 and we have not received any guidance in preparation. Our thinking is that they will announce a phased return, potentially starting with younger pupils first. We have been working through different scenarios and have draft plans in place. We will share this after half term, once we have further guidance to align to and they have been agreed by the Governing body. What I can say is that we are incredibly keen to welcome all pupils back, however, we must reflect on the situation with Coronavirus and take the best and safest route forward.

Early Transitions

Pupils in Early Transitions are enjoying forest school activities. They are making decorations out of anything they can find in our orchard. We help them to use their initiative and creativity.



In our live lessons Early Transitions pupils were practicing mark making in dance moves, then they were trying to transfer the moves they have been learning about onto the paper or sensory trays. They used hands, feet and their bodies.

What a perfect time to start our 'Snowy day' story in the week filled in with snow. Pupils continued the sensory experience and exploration outdoors.



Sensory learning for some of our pupils has no boundaries. Exploring different materials always enriches experiences and communication.

Physical and Sensory

The pupils focused on emotions and how they were feeling during our inside out day. We had a sensory story about coping with our emotions and then focused on activities that make students happy.



We have been making use our amazing multi-sensory room and exploring light toys and developing our cause and effect this half term.

Pupils n Physical and Sensory have loved food technology. They have been really independent and enjoy using the blender with a switch to help create something tasty.



Communication and Sensory

Lots of our pupils in our communication and sensory pathway have been at school developing their communication skills though lots of exciting activities. We have been learning to focus, anticipate and have fun!



Happy Orange Day! What a way to end the half term!

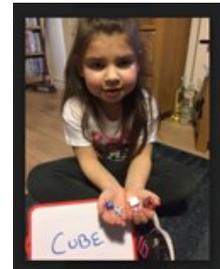
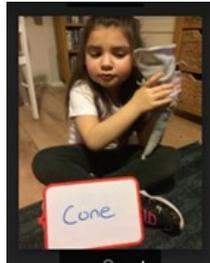


Cognition and Learning

During these difficult times, our children continue to thrive in their learning. The pupils enjoy learning through play, waiting patiently and turn taking with support.



'Wow' awards to all our pupils! Our pupils have been so committed in the live lessons and in completing the google classroom assignments these last few weeks – it has been a real pleasure to teach them.

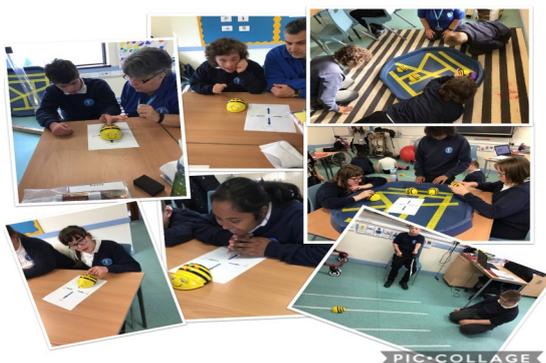


Tiger and Giraffe class teamed up and learnt to count in threes together. They were super counters!



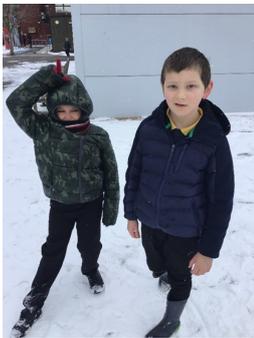
Keller class have been learning to understand directions. We used beebots and directed them to go forwards and backwards.

Some fairies came to visit Elephant class in their Personal Development lesson and they left a note asking the class to explore their world and also help to save them

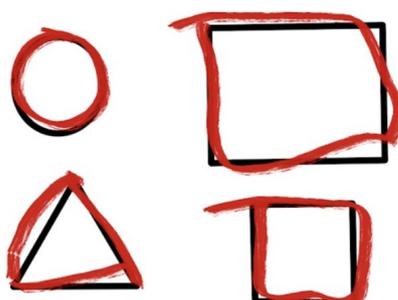
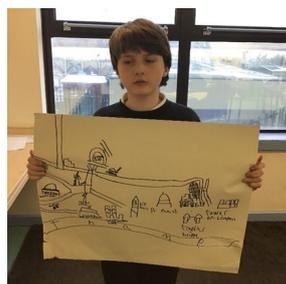


Communication and Interaction

Phase 1 : This term our theme has been "Where in the world?". Pupils have enjoyed travelling around the world learning about different countries and cultures. We visited China to count the pandas and build The Great Wall of China. We went to Australia to swim in the Great Barrier Reef and created our own underwater art. We also went to Africa to go on a Safari and read stories about African animals. Not forgetting enjoying a few snowy days along the way too. It's been a fun packed half term full of great learning and the children have worked hard showing all our school values, especially resilience.

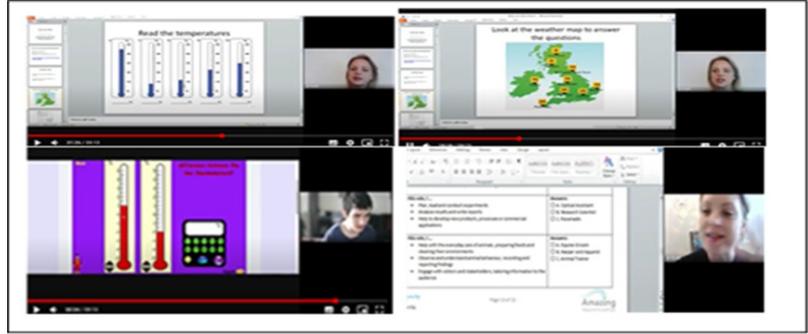


In Phase 2 pupils have been learning about landmarks in English in relation to our topic 'Big City Lights'. Fantastic work has been achieved both at home and school. One student commented 'I would love to live in Buckingham Palace' to which the member of staff replied, 'think about all the dusting!'.



Phase 3

The Phase 3 curriculum centres around Preparation for Adulthood and functional skills. Pupils also access vocational options that they have selected in line with their personal interests and preferences.



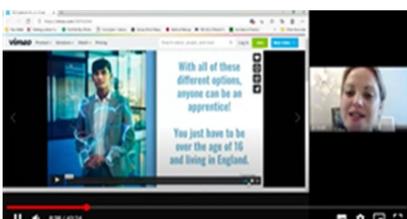
Some pupils who have selected vocational study options are working towards gaining accredited outcomes at the end of the year. We have reacted to the different circumstances that we find ourselves in this year and have made adjustments to how we deliver our vocational qualifications to ensure that progress within these outcomes is still being made and that where possible, they can still be delivered through a blended approach so pupils are still accredited for their hard work. January we had our external quality assurance moderation by the Gateway qualifications board and pupils have continued to make good progress towards gaining their awards and certificates.



To support the delivery of remote learning, we've sent home learning packs so that all pupils have what they need to engage in their curriculums at home and for practical live lessons!. A happy young man following his remote learning pack delivery!

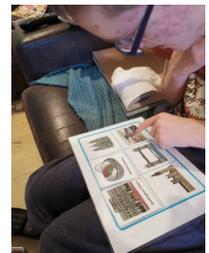
Pupils have recently learnt about apprenticeships and different training providers as part of National Apprenticeship week. The week is designed to celebrate the positive impact apprenticeships and traineeships have on individuals, businesses and the economy.

No matter what curriculum we are studying or whether we are at home or at school, it appears that we all seem to have enjoyed the snow!



Phase 3: Hawking and Tajiri classes

This half term, Hawking and Tajiri have been learning about London. Pupils have taken part in a range of activities, including a sensory story, making crowns, making an afternoon tea to have with the Queen and exploring colours, lights and sounds of London. They have all been very creative and created 3D picture of London .



The learners at home have been really engaged in google classrooms joining in with live lessons. Everyone has been encouraged to develop life skills by taking part in tasks around the house both remotely and in the bungalow, they've been involved in activities such as loading the dishwasher, washing up, hoovering, sorting the washing, putting it in the washing machine and tumble dryer.



We have also had lots of fun, we have introduced new songs to develop understanding of our topic, everyone especially likes Space odyssey! Last week we all enjoyed taking part in mindfulness activities to promote Children's Mental Health, we made glitter bottles, had foot spas and massages whilst listening to calming music. This helps pupils develop strategies to relax and regulate.



SOCS Shop News



As part of our Work Related learning curriculum, pupils continue to upload new products for online sales onto our socsshop.com

Six of our pupils successfully interviewed for positions within the soccshop and we would like to congratulate the following pupils in their work related roles:

Iain – Media assistant

Bailey – Stock room assistant,

Joel and Dylan – Stock runner/porter,

Connor and George – Picker and packers

More job specifications will be sent out across the phase soon and interviews for more roles are due to take place in the summer term.

Our student crafted Christmas Wreaths were a huge success and we would like to thank everyone for their sales and support, we managed to raise



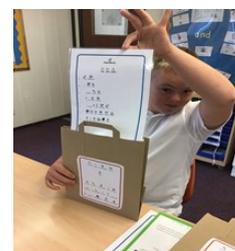
Our latest products being produced by the horticulture and enterprise groups are:

Filled Hanging Baskets

Scented soap bars

Spring soup packs and herb boxes

Don't forget that we also have some of our staple construction items to purchase such as our planters and coat hooks—These items can also be ordered and paid for online via our socsshop.com





Dates for your diary

Date	Event
12/01/2021	Chinese New Year
15/02/2021—19/02/2021	February Half Term
22/02/2021	First day back
04/03/2021	World Book Day
05/03/2021	British Science Week
12/03/2021	World Maths Day
19/03/2021	Red Nose Day
26/03/2021	World Purple Day (Epilepsy)
26/03/2021	Last Day of term
29/03/2021—12/03/2021	Easter Half Term

PLEASE NOTE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



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