The Chiltern School

April 2022

Message from the Headteacher

It's been another really busy term and not without the continued challenges presented by COVID. You will see in this newsletter that it didn't stop us providing vibrant and stimulating learning opportunities which pupils have engaged in with enthusiasm and pride.

We are all very excited, if not a little nervous as we make the final step in our school improvement journey and come together on one site. We received the keys of the refurbished block yesterday and are really pleased to have worked closely with the contractors and Central Bedfordshire Council to create additional space and improved facilities that enrich provision for all pupils. We look forward to welcoming you into school once everything is settled in the summer term.

Finally, heartfelt thanks goes to our AMAZING staff team who have overcome some extraordinarily challenging barriers, both personally and professionally, to ensure that our pupils have continued to access outstanding provision and support. I also want to extend thanks and gratitude to all our families who have continued to support and encourage us throughout this term.

Whatever the weather and activities you have planned, we hope you and your family enjoy the break and hope it is filled with kindness. We look forward to new adventures on the other side.

The Chiltern School

Parent Coffee Mornings

Many of our families have shared that they find it difficult to connect with other parents due to sending their children to school via the School Transport Service. Our families have told us that it is valuable to meet with other parents and carers on the school site. To support this, we will be hosting coffee mornings in our new building on the Kingsland site. Coffee Mornings will begin on Thursday 21st April and run between 9.00am - 10.30am. A google form will be sent out ahead of each session, if you would like to attend please sign up, we look forward to seeing you there!

To ensure we are facilitating an experience which allows for parents and carers to connect and build supportive relationships with one another, we would like to set out a few guidelines regarding the aim of the coffee morning:

- To create a positive, welcoming environment
- Provide an opportunity for parents and carers to meet
- To allow parents / carers to share what would be useful to them regarding information sessions which could be hosted by the school
- Provide a space for parents to get to know each other and build supportive relationships

Should you need to discuss a concern or problem, please ensure this is raised with the appropriate member of staff, rather than shared at the session - staff are there to facilitate rather than respond to individual concerns.
In relation to feedback you have shared we are working on putting together a programme of information sharing sessions in the Autumn term. We hope that these will provide a platform for support and advice in relation to a range of different topics.

Do you have a few hours you can spare to support activities in school?
We will provide enhanced DBS and training, in return for supporting activities at school or on community trips. No experience of working in a school necessary.
Please contact our HR team initially to register your interest, the email is recruitment@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

The Chiltern School

Inside Out Day

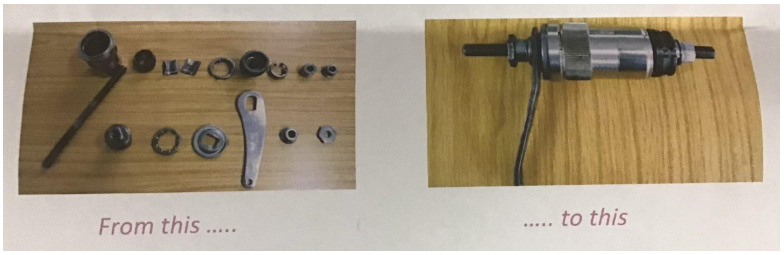
On Wednesday 9th February we had Inside Out Day during Children's Mental Health week.

EKFB Construction and engineering - Monday 14th March

Thank you to the staff from EKFB Construction and engineering who gave up their time to support our learning today. They spoke to us about the different roles within the engineering industry and best of all worked with us to construct and time giant marble runs!

TSI Workshops - Tuesday 15th March

Wow! By applying TSI (training in systematic instruction) look at the complex brake discs some of our pupils built today from parts, working systematically through each step until independent. Thank you to Ellen Atkinson Ltd for training our staff to apply TSI.



The Chiltern School

World Book Day

Thursday 3rd March was World Book Day. It was fabulous to see our staff and our young pupils dressed up in their favourite book characters. We even had a surprise at transport with our young pupils greeted by Little Miss Curiosity and some Dalmations.

The Chiltern School

STEM Day

Wednesday 2nd March was STEM day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) for the whole school. It was amazing to invite our parents back in for the first time in over two years to experience this with their children for the afternoon.

Job centre support for schools & Gateway qualifications Awards ceremony

An awards presentation took place on 30th March for some of our phase 2 and 3 pupils with their families to celebrate some recent achievements.

This included successful completion of a 6 week employability course run by Liz Parry and Viv Davidson from the JobCentre plus. The course content covered soft skills, recognising own skills and qualities, CV writing, application forms, work experience and finalised with a mock interview for each pupil with individual feedback. Liz and Viv were so impressed with the engagement, attitudes and performance of our young people that they wanted to come into school to each pupil with a special certificate.

In addition, some of our older Phase 3 learners were presented with their official

The Chiltern School

certificates, externally verified by Gateway qualifications for successfully completing accreditations within vocational studies. These included qualifications from entry 1 to level 1 within Enterprise, Catering and hospitality and working within the land-based sector.

Pupils were rightly very proud of their achievements.
Well done to all

The Chiltern School

Business and Industry Day

Thursday 20th January across the whole school we had Business and Industry day. All classes took part in setting up their classes as businesses for the day. We had Morrisons, McDonalds, Carpet shop, salon to get your nails, hair, foot spa and even a tattoo!

The Chiltern School

Trips and Visits

Wednesday 9th February Joyce & Grandin class visited the local restaurant, La Bella Calabria in Houghton Regis for a superb community experience.

Tuesday 1st March Grandin & Giraffe class went to the MAD Museum in Stratford Upon Avon.

Wednesday 16th March 17 of our young people visited the National Apprenticeship Show in Milton Keynes. They met with employees within a variety of businesses and industries and found out about different job roles. They also enjoyed the fun challenges on the stands!

The Chiltern School

Attendance

Thank you to our families for the efforts made to liaise with us around your child's attendance. It's been helpful to meet and speak to parents. As a result of covid cases reducing and our focus in this area, we have seen a significant increase in our pupil's attendance.

General reminders:

If your child is going to be absent, please let us know before 9.00am via the following:

Email: attendance@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

Text: 07860 055 246

Telephone / Voice Message: 01582 866972

If your child has a medical appointment, you will need to send a copy of your medical evidence, this can be an appointment card, letter or confirmation text message. Please submit to attendance@chiltern.beds.sch.uk

We understand there have been some recent issues where transport has arrived late to school and we apologise for the inconvenience that this has caused. With all pupils on one site after Easter, we expect there will be adjustments in the first couple of weeks, please be assured that we are working with the transport teams and endeavour to have our planned processes adhered to, though we recognise there may be time needed for everyone to get used to our new routines.

Wishing you a lovely holiday …

Happy Easter and Ramadan Mubarak to those celebrating over the holiday. We hope this time will be peaceful for those of you who are participating in either celebration.

Spring is a great time for all of us to appreciate our surroundings, enjoy nature and reflect on what we are grateful for. Thank you to all of those parents, carers and families who have sent our staff Easter, Spring and Ramadan holiday wishes, we are very grateful for your kindness and support.

The Chiltern School

Dates for your Diary

Dates	Events
Wednesday 20th April 2022	Pupils return from Easter break
Thursday 5th May	Enterprise Fair
13th May - 20th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
Friday 27th May	Last day of term
Tuesday 7th June	Pupils return from half term
Tuesday 7th June	Food Safety Week
Tuesday 21st June	World Music Day

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