



Chisenhale Chatter



Chisenhale Primary School Bow
Learning Together for a Better Future

23/04/21

Hello

A really busy time with the Parent Meetings this week, thank you to you all for logging in and making those work. The parents of children who are 4 years old and applied for their Reception places were notified on Friday, and we are pleased that all our Nursery children got their chosen school! Please see my much longer message, below, this week,
Sharon

Photographers in next Friday

We have the photographers coming in to take individual portraits on Friday 30th April, in the outdoor classroom. We will also do a sitting for siblings, so that brothers and sisters can have a photograph together if parents would like that. Please complete the Google form sent as a separate email to make your request for a sibling photo. Unfortunately, we won't be able to accommodate pre-school children this year.

Diary Dates

Monday 3rd May School closed - bank holiday

Thursday 6th May School closed - polling day

Monday 17th-Friday 21st May Science week

Monday 31st May-Friday 4th June School closed for half term

Monday 21st June-Friday 25th June Art Week

Keep the date: we are hoping that we might be able to have a summer fete of some kind this year if restrictions are lifted. We have pencilled in **Saturday 3rd July** so please keep it free! More news to follow.

20th July School closes 2pm for the summer holiday

Reminders

- If you have a positive Covid test please email us as soon as possible: covid@chisenhale.towerhamlets.sch.uk
- We still want your clean recycling for our design technology projects please. Cereal and other boxes, yoghurt pots, cartons, milk or juice bottles, newspaper, egg boxes, plastic containers etc all gratefully received. No glass please.
- If your child has been offered a reception place for September please make sure you email cdorington1.211@lgflmail.org to accept or decline your place.
- Tower Hamlets would like your views on our local markets. Please complete the survey at: <https://talk.towerhamlets.gov.uk/marketssurvey>

The following children will be receiving a praise postcard this week:

Sprouts - Adiyana and Pearl
Broccoli - Akram and Charlotte
Curly Kale - Kyseon and Eloise
Beetroot - Romy and Jack
Basil - Victoria and Jessie
Thyme - Aneesa and Thomas
Mint - Ruby and Ivy
Lavender - Sienna and Doyin
Cherry - Sofia and Freddie
Rowan - Tayiba and Harry
Oak - Victoria and Umaiya
Willow - Eesa and Tahani

We have some spaces for private after-school piano lessons on Wednesdays between 4 and 5pm, Thursdays between 5 and 6pm and Friday 3.30 to 6pm. These take place at school and cost £20 for a half hour individual lesson. If you are interested email William directly on billthoven@gmail.com. As a thank you to the school, William is also happy to have a chat with any of our pupils who are sitting any music exams as he sits on the exam board.

A Recovery Plan

Children are settling back into school and into some kind of normality. We have noticed that many of the children have found the return to school more difficult this time around. Separation from parents and carers and simply the length of the day is tricky for some children. Others are struggling with their ability to concentrate, keep on task and not be distracted by the smallest thing. We have also noticed that many children are needing more support and reassurance with their work, and are finding independent tasks quite daunting. When you consider what has been happening in the world for the past year and the disruption and uncertainties for the children, this is not at all surprising. There is still much anxiety around for all of us, and that is never missed by the children, no matter how well we think we are managing it.

We are aware that due to lockdown and various bubble closures our children have gaps in their learning. While we are anxious to fill these gaps and help them catch up with any lost learning, we want to do this in a way that also supports their wellbeing.

In terms of our learning, we are focussing on the key skills in reading, writing and maths this term and trying to make sure the children have a good basis in these, so that they are ready to move on in September. We have tried to ensure in our planning that our lessons are as engaging as possible and we are looking at where we can put in exciting and hands-on experiences. For example, we are currently planning a space-themed science week and have already booked a giant Science Dome for some space exploration. Our art week is going to have a sculpting theme and we are busy planning that too. In terms of supporting wellbeing, we are having a big emphasis this term on working with children in developing their emotional literacy through our work on Zones of Regulation.

However, we are still working to many restrictions so that we keep any possible risks of passing on this virus to a minimum and have a number of staff who are yet to be vaccinated. Our priority has to be the safety of the children and the staff and to reduce the risk of having to close any bubbles. Children remain in their bubbles throughout the day because if we do get a case, we will then only have to close that year group. There is hand washing at regular intervals and extra cleaning is taking place at school. Guidance is still for staff to wear face masks in the staff communal areas and when moving around the school.

Despite the restrictions, we are planning for children to have access to a range of trips and activities. Year 6 would normally be heading off to Devon in May, but as this is not possible at present, we have some exciting days out planned for them instead. They are also going to do an end of year show, which we are hoping they can perform to a live audience. Year 5 would have had a sleepover this term in school, but we are postponing that until September, so that they can still have this experience but when it is a little safer and there are fewer restrictions. It is the pre-cursor to their Year 6 school journey in the Summer term, which we very much hope will be happening in 2022. We are also planning for the current Y4 children to have their Y5 sleepover in Summer 2022. We have sports days in the calendar for the week beginning 5th July, but are again awaiting guidance for how these might take place. In addition, we are hoping to do a whole school outing towards the end of term.

Keeping within guidelines, and keeping as safe as we can to reduce the risk to everyone, is our priority. This has been a very different year, and as we are not yet out of this pandemic, will end a very different year, too. It has been challenging for all of us. We appreciate your continuing understanding and support as we work towards a positive conclusion to this academic year for your child with hopes of better things to come in the future.

Sharon and the Chisenhale Team