

Our Christian value for this half term is - We Love

Friday 9th October 2020

DIARY DATES 2020

Monday 12th October

- Pumpkin Competition Judging

Friday 16th October

- INSET Day

Reminder

Please ensure that your child wears a waterproof coat or jacket to school to enable them to have the opportunity to go outside.

Harvest Festival

Unfortunately, we are not able to gather at church this Autumn to celebrate Harvest. Children are welcome to bring a food donation in to school, which will be quarantined. All food donations will be taken to the Dorking Area Foodbank, showing love to our local community. We respectfully request that all donated items are non-perishable, unopened and in date, with a Best Before Date of 2021 or beyond. Unfortunately, the Foodbank cannot accept homemade products.

Preferred list:

Tinned meat, fish, vegetables, potatoes, fruit, rice pudding, custard, tomatoes. Pasta sauce, cereal, biscuits, jam, spread, snack bars

Good morning, welcome to October. I have to say that September has felt a very long month with everyone working flat out.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the need to socially distance whilst dropping off and collecting children from school as we all have an important role to play in helping schools to remain open. It is vitally important that you and your family continue to follow guidance on social distancing as this enables the measures that the school have put in place to be as effective as possible in addressing the challenges presented by coronavirus.

We can all help to control coronavirus if we all stay alert. This means:

- stay at home as much as possible
- limit contact with other people
- keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- wash your hands regularly.

Parents should also be mindful about bubble mixing in out of school clubs/ childcare. It is also important that people should avoid sharing a private vehicle with members of another household as you will not be able to keep to strict social distancing guidelines.

Inside school, we continue with our planned curriculum, children continue to be happy and are keen to learn new things. Children have contributed to bright, stimulating displays around the school based on the learning question 'What makes a community thrive?'

Our remote learning plan for individual children isolating or class bubbles isolating has been sent out with the newsletter. All information will also be available on the website. I ask that you do not message teachers with questions/comments about remote learning provision through Purple Mash but instead contact them through the school office. This ensures messages are sent to both teachers, where there is a job share, and that teachers do not receive messages in the evenings and at weekends.

Wishing you a good weekend, keep safe and well.

Mrs J Ratcliff

Covid-19

The department for education coronavirus (covid-19) helpline remains available to answer question about covid-19 relating to education and children's social care. Please listen carefully to the available options and select the most appropriate to your nursery, school or college's current situation.

Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4pm

House Captains:

Box: Hello, we are Holly and Callum and we are the Box House Captains. We are looking forward to helping Box to be the best that they can be. During the year, we would like to organise a sponsored run or walk to raise money for a charity.

Holmbury: Hi, we're Mercy and Euan and we are proud to be the House Captains of Holmbury. We'd like to make it a fun year for everyone in our house and we're hoping to put on a Talent Show for all the years, both at Westcott and Abinger (once we're allowed to sing again!).

Leith: We are Sophie and Noah – your Leith House Captains. We are excited to represent our house and want to help everyone in Leith to do their best and have fun too. Once Covid has gone, we are looking forward to meeting together as a House and supporting each other, both in sports and in our work.

Ranmore: Hi – we're Zoe and Scarlett (Ranmore House Captains) and we would love to make it an amazing year for Ranmore. We have a few ideas, such as: sporting activities for charity and house competitions with great prizes!

House Captains

Box: Callum & Holly



Holmbury: Euan & Mercy



Leith: Noah & Sophie



Ranmore: Scarlett & Zoe



Online Safety

In school, we are continuously discussing with the children how they can ensure they are keeping themselves safe online and that they should be reporting any inappropriate content they view at home to the adults within their household. Sometimes children are fearful to do this if they think it is content they shouldn't have been engaging with in the first place.

If parents are aware of their children having negative experiences when using the internet, in particular when participating in group chats or playing online games, please do email in to let us know. In order to deal with this, we will adapt our PHSE curriculum to address such issues.

European Day of Languages

This week, Year 5 and 6 celebrated 'European Day of Languages'. We learnt about what it stands for, when the day originated from and some interesting albeit surprising facts about how many languages are spoken in our very own capital city!

The children revised some French knowledge from their past years of learning it, but particularly enjoyed their German and Spanish taster sessions where the children learnt how to say the colours in these languages and complete some related activities.

They also enjoyed looking at various greetings in different European languages and identifying which European country the language originated from. This was very good practice for their flag knowledge and recognition too!

We are very lucky to have some bilingual children in our year 5 and 6 classes so it was lovely to hear some foreign languages spoken first hand! Mrs Grover enjoyed using her language skills with her class too.

Change in Circumstances

We are aware that some families have had a challenging year in terms of finances, losing work or having to work reduced hours which has impacted on family finances. If your financial circumstances have change please contact the school office in confidence, to see if you are now eligible for free school meals.

Government Fruit Scheme

The government-funded fruit scheme has restarted, all children in Reception and KS1 will receive a piece of fruit each morning. All children from Reception to Year 6 are very welcome to bring in a snack to eat at break time. Please remember that these should be healthy - so no crisps or chocolate and definitely no nuts - if you are sending in a cereal bar please check the label to make sure it doesn't contain nuts. Many thanks.

Diary Dates 2020/21	Please add these dates to your diary, any changes will appear in red. F@SH dates are shown in blue.		
October		February	
16th Oct	INSET Day	12th Feb	End of term—normal close times
21st Oct	Children's Flu Vaccination	15th to 19th Feb	Half term
23rd Oct	End of term—normal close times	22nd Feb	INSET Day
26th to 30th Oct	Half term		
		April	
November		1st Apr	End of Term, early close times Abinger 1.15pm. Westcott 1.30pm
2nd Nov	INSET Day	19th Apr	Back to school
2nd Nov	Open Day 9.30am to 3.30pm		
3rd Nov	Back to school	May	
9 th to 13 th Nov	Year 6 Level 2 Bikeability	3rd May	Bank Holiday
21st Nov	Open Day 9.30am to 3.30pm	27th May	End of term—normal close times
23 rd to 27 th Nov	Year 6 Level 2 Bikeability	28th May	INSET Day
		31st May to 4th Jun	Half term
December			
18th Dec	End of Term (early close times) Abinger 1.15pm. Westcott 1.30pm	June	
		7th Jun	Back to school
January 2021			
4th Jan	INSET Day	July	
5th Jan	Back to school, start of the Spring Term	21st Jul	End of Term (early close times) Abinger 1.15pm. Westcott 1.30pm

Weekly Attendance Stats	W/C 21st September	W/C 28th September	W/C 5th October
Weekly Attendance %:	98.5	97.78	97.39
Attendance year to date %:	95.64	96.15	96.38

Headteacher: Mrs Jennie Ratcliff

Assistant Headteachers: Miss Bethan Lucas and Mrs Garrick

Abinger Site

Westcott Site

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