

CJS NEWS

Weekly news from Christchurch Junior School

Issue 3—Friday 25 September 2020

THE BEST FOR ALL—THE BEST FROM ALL



Dear Parents / Carers

How has it been three weeks in school already? Time seems to be flying and, while I write this letter with the rain falling, I find myself trying to recall the summer! Our Year 3 children are settling well and they are learning quickly about the systems and processes here at CJS.

Today, you will receive your child's termly guide. This broadly explains the curriculum that your child will be experiencing this term, giving you the opportunity to engage in conversation with your child about their learning and to extend their understanding and interest in the topics. We are also sharing our expectations regarding homework—please remember that the class teacher will always support you with home learning; you just need to let us know.

Many thanks

S R Fuller

FAREWELL

Having worked at CJS for an incredible 21 years, Mrs Bringloe is leaving us. She has brightened the lives of thousands of young people with her positive attitude and great approach to school-life. Mrs Bringloe has carried out many roles over the years: she has taught classes of children regularly; her amazing organisation has enabled hundreds of children to take part in sports fixtures and events; she has tirelessly supported residential trips and everything these entail; her knowledge as a teaching assistant within classrooms has been invaluable.

In short, we are going to miss Mrs Bringloe dearly, and I know that our community will feel the same.

CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE

- If anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, the rest of the household **MUST** self-isolate for 14 days from the **FIRST** day the symptomatic person has symptoms.
- The symptomatic person must get a test.
- If it is your child who has any of the symptoms, they must not come to school.
- Tests can be booked online through the NHS website or by calling NHS 119.

Please refer to our flowchart to help you make decisions about attendance when your child feels unwell. <https://www.cjsdorset.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/what-if-my-child-is-ill-September-2020.pdf>

ATTENDANCE RACE

This week our whole school attendance is 97.1%.

The winners of the attendance race for last week are:

Year 3	3BB	95.5%
Year 4	4CC	96.7%
Year 5	5GW	97.7%
Year 6	6JW	97.0%

STAGGERED TIMINGS

Please stick as closely to your staggered start times as possible. This is especially important now that the weather is beginning to change. Year 5 and 6 children are now being encouraged to free flow into the school grounds and go straight to their classrooms at the start of the day. This will help to limit the congestion on Clarendon Road.

WEATHER + COATS

The rain is coming! Please ensure your child comes to school with their coat each day, even it appears sunny and pleasant first thing in the morning. Invariably, we will try to get your children outside come rain or shine (unless it's torrential!).

PARENT'S EVENING

Parents' evenings are scheduled to take place during the week beginning Monday 19th October. We are in the process of finalising our plans, but these are likely to take a virtual format wherever possible. Phone calls home will replace video calls where they are not possible. More details to follow.

HOLIDAYS DURING SCHOOL TERMS

Schools may not authorise any leave of absence (including holidays) during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Examples of exceptional circumstances may include:

- A parent is service personnel and is returning from a tour of duty abroad where it is evidenced the individual will not be in receipt of any leave in the near future that coincides with school holidays
- An absence from school is recommended by a health professional
- The death or terminal illness of a close relative
- Religious observance
- Attendance at a wedding or funeral

Even with these examples, there are still criteria to be met to show that they are exceptional.

Any leave should be applied for using the school's leave of absence form available from the school office or from our website. This is in line with Government legislation; the Educational (Pupil Registration) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

We are seeing increasing numbers of applications for holiday in term time. Please remember that these are highly likely to be recorded as unauthorised. In some circumstances, for example, when previous attendance has been poor or if the request is for 5 days or more, these holidays will also be subject to the school making a recommendation to our Local Authority to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice. The school receives no revenue from this process. We simply need CJS children to be in school and learning.

CLUBS

A selection of clubs will be beginning from the week beginning 28 September. You will have received our timetable, protocol and information on how to enrol your child in a club. We are looking to expand the clubs that are on offer to our younger children as soon as possible. We have had to prioritise our older children due to the greater opportunities to take part in fixtures and therefore preparation is required to do this.

RECEPTION

We would like to remind parents to try and avoid coming into reception where possible and either call us on 01202 485579 or email office@cjsdorset.org with any queries you may have. If you do need to come into reception, we ask that masks are worn and only one family are inside at a time. Many thanks.

ABSENCE

Please communicate any absence to the school by either calling our office (01202 485579) or emailing (office@cjsdorset.org). Do not use any other avenues, such as ClassDojo, as these messages will not always be picked up in a timely manner.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS ELIGIBILITY CHECKING

Parents can go on line to Dorsetforyou.com to complete the electronic application form to see if their child is eligible for free school meals. The online application can be found at this address <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/free-school-meals> and there is an 'Apply Now' button prominently displayed on the page. A search of 'free school meals Dorset' or 'Dorset free school meals' from any search engine brings the correct page to the top of the searches too. Alternatively, we have a form in the school office which you are welcome to complete to allow us to apply on your behalf.

Did you know that where children are registered for Free School Meals, we can also help you with the funding of school trips, uniform and music lessons?

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK— W/C 5 OCTOBER

The week commencing 5 October is National Walk to School Week, where pupils and adults around the UK unite for one week of walking to school. It would be great to see as many families walking to school in support of this. For more information please visit <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/walk-to-school-week>. This is a healthier alternative, of course, as well as helping to keep our roads safer and less congested.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2020—2021 (correct at time of going to print)

Wednesday 7 October	3SC Cranborne Trip
Thursday 8 October	3GF Cranborne Trip
Wednesday 14 October	3BB Cranborne Trip
Thursday 15 October	3DH Cranborne Trip
Monday 25 October — Friday 30 October	Half Term