



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well, as we enjoy a slight easing of lockdown and look forward to further easing over the coming weeks. In school, we continue to take all the precautions necessary and we are so grateful to our community for following our drop-off and collection one-way systems.

A letter was sent to all Year 4 parents this week to let them know about a temporary change in Year 4. It is necessary for Mrs Singh to do a short placement in another school, so will be teaching elsewhere for Term 5. During this term, I will be taking the class to ensure continuity and familiarity for the class. Mrs Singh will be back in Term 6, and I know how much she is going to miss her class. I have strict instructions from her to help us have a smooth term! As you will appreciate, this temporary change will affect my availability during the school day. Please can I ask that if you have any concerns, to ensure you go to your class teacher first, and if you wish to see me, please understand it may not be possible straight away. However, I will be available every Thursday while Mrs Bunting takes the class.

I would like to say how proud I am of all the children this week. We expected the first week to be happy and exciting; children were so eager to go out and see their friends. We also expected the novelty to wear off this week, with more of their anxieties and stresses coming through. We are doing a lot in classes to support children in this, but I have been in awe of the resilience that they have shown and the kindness and empathy towards each other. I hear children reassuring each other, demonstrating a deep understanding of what they might be feeling and knowing they can help. We are so lucky to have such a wonderfully supportive family of students.

Best wishes

Suzanne Farr



Parent Consultation Arrangements

Hopefully you all received a letter via email this week, informing you how to log in and make your own appointments for either the 23rd or 24th March. It will be an opportunity to share with your teacher anything about your child's home learning, discuss how they are settling back in and what they might need to focus on next.

We would normally carry out formal assessments at this point in the year, but this will not now take place until the summer. We need to ensure our children are taught rather than tested following such a long period of absence.

If you have any trouble with the booking system, please contact the office.

Upcoming Dates and events

w/b 22nd March—Staff Appreciation Week

23rd and 24th March—Virtual Parent Consultations 4:00pm to 6:30pm—information to follow

31st March—Children's last day

1st April—INSET day

19th April—Children return to school

21st April—New school counsellor starts and will be in every Wednesday.

There are loads of ways to get involved this Red Nose Day. From buying a Red Nose or exclusive Pixar t-shirt, to holding your own fundraiser, to turning on the telly to watch a night of one-off comedy specials, live music and money can't buy prizes.

Let's help provide safety to families who need support. Tackle mental health stigma. Take action against domestic abuse. And help to give children a brighter future.



Trespassing on the School Site

Unfortunately, we have noticed that some older children from the community are gaining access to the school site when it is empty and using it as their own personal playground. There appears to be anti-social and dangerous behaviour happening, including urinating on our children's slide and climbing on the flat roofs.

I'm sure you agree with me that this behaviour is disgraceful and unsafe. It is very possible that these youths are previous pupils at our school, which makes it even more disappointing. Having been a pupil here, does not give them the right to access our site uninvited.

Their behaviour will have a direct impact on our children's access to outside resources at school. Whilst we can clean and disinfect our equipment to make it safe, I cannot guarantee that any other items left by them on the ground would be found, and it is currently too big a risk to our children's health.

The school is taking steps with the local community and the police have been informed. Together we need to try and keep our site safe, but you can help too.

Please talk to your children about the dangers of trespassing. We understand that the youths are going onto our roofs which is incredibly dangerous. If you have older children that go out unsupervised, please impress upon them the importance of not being persuaded to come onto our site by their peers. It is a criminal offence to damage our property and to put our children in danger of harm from bodily fluids or items that are left, is despicable.

Please help us to keep your children safe by coming together as a community and not accepting this behaviour. Our children deserve better.

If you have any information regarding the above, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the local police.

REMINDER

Please can I ask all parents to keep children away from the play equipment at the end of the day. The equipment is quarantined and set aside for our After School Club. When other pupils go on it for a quick play, it prevents other children being able to use it.

We are also currently unable to guarantee the safety of the area due to the above information.





Staff Appreciation Week

This year, we are holding our first Staff Appreciation Week and we would like your help. We have an amazingly dedicated staff at Capel, and I would like them to know how much they are appreciated.

We would simply like you to tell a member of staff if they have made a difference to you, your child or your family. So many times we feel thankful, but don't often have the chance to say it. So this week, if there is any member of staff within the school that you would like to thank, please send them a little note letting them know.

You can send an email to them, or drop a note into the office in the week beginning 22nd March.

Throughout the week, the staff will have other treats and events to know how valued they are.

Week beginning 22nd March

Thank you

I need your help to show the staff at the school how valued they are. Please could you pick a member of staff to write a note to, letting them know how much you appreciate them. We have 35 members of staff here, so if you're not sure of someone's name, please feel free to ask! We have staff that work in the kitchens and those that manage our site, staff that carry out admin and finance aspects of the school, staff that support our children at break-times and those that support them in the classrooms.

Thank you in advance for taking part, it means such a lot.



Food Allergy Reminder

Please can I politely remind all families that we are a nut-free school. This is due to some children having potentially dangerous allergies.

It does mean that we ask you to check the contents of lunchboxes carefully, and try to avoid some chocolate spreads, chocolate bars with nuts in, some cereal bars and anything else which may contain nuts. Thank you



Parental controls are a great tool to help protect your children online and there's plenty of advice available to help you use them effectively.



<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

Controls are not a single solution to staying safe online; talking to your children and encouraging responsible behaviour is critical. However, controls are an important first step to helping to protect your child online. Here are seven simple things you can do to use them effectively:

1. Set up home broadband parental controls and make use of controls on your home broadband.
2. Set controls on your search engine; encourage your child to always use child-friendly search engines, and activate and lock the safe search settings on the browsers and platforms they use.
3. Make sure every device is protected. Controls should be installed on every device your child uses, such as their mobile phone, tablet and games consoles (both home and handheld).
4. Use privacy settings. Activate the safety measures offered by different sites; social networking sites like Facebook have privacy settings that will help prevent your child seeing unsuitable advertising or sharing too much with other people.
5. Block pop-ups. If you're worried about your children accessing inappropriate content though accidentally clicking on adverts in pop-ups, follow the advice from [Tech Advisor](#) on how to stop these.
6. Find good sites and agree on them as a family. By talking to your child about their interests you can help them find suitable sites to visit and apps to use. Review these sites as they get older.
7. **Manage their use and access. Children may be very worried that your response to a problem will be to take away their internet access. Whilst this may be an appropriate response in some cases, the threat may be a barrier for a child who needs help. Be aware of this when talking to them about their internet use, and reassure them that they can talk to you or a trusted adult whenever they need to.**