



## Newsletter 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021



### Dear Families

Two weeks into the new term and my first actual newsletter of the new year. I know 2021 has not quite been the new start we might have been hoping for, but I have great hopes that we might get back to some normality at some point this year.

Whether your children are working remotely or are in school we remain a community and I am proud how these troubling times have only brought us closer.

This is my first newsletter where everything I am writing pertains to both Clandon and Shere! I see this as a real positive because it saves me a great deal of time but also it means that we are increasingly working together in meaningful ways.

### Remote Learning Expectations:



Our remote learning offer can be found in full on our school websites but after meeting with staff to reflect on week one I have a few reminders:

#### Attendance:

Attendance at remote learning sessions should be viewed in the same way as actual attendance at school, your child is expected to be at each session on time and to engage in the session. There is similar system in place for non-attendance at remote sessions, that could ultimately result in a referral to the Inclusion Service. Therefore, if your child is unable to attend a session for any reason (this could be illness or a medical appointment) you must let the school office know.

#### Behaviour and Attitudes:

We expect children to be ready for learning when they join live sessions. This means they should be dressed appropriately; this need not be school uniform but should not be pyjamas. This also applies to others in the household who could be seen on camera.

Children will ideally be sitting in a place that they can focus on the lesson. We understand that each household is different but an ideal set up would see the child sat at a desk or table, the television should be switched off and other distractions kept to a minimum.

We understand children at home seem to need a snack every ten minutes but please try to avoid giving them snacks during the live lessons as this is distracting for your child and makes everyone else 'need' a snack!

Children are expected to engage in the lesson and behave well. Please encourage this.

### Parental Help:

Remote learning is a new adventure for all of us. We really appreciate so many of you who support your child with their learning. It is important to find the right balance of support and independence for your child and you will find this, in time. However, completing your child's work for them is not helpful and will not support their progress. I understand the urge to help your child complete a perfect piece of work, but learning is about making mistakes so please allow this process to happen naturally. By the way, we can hear you when you whisper the answer 😊

### Feedback:

Teachers, Learning Support Assistants and Teaching Assistants are spending hours after school responding to children's work with written comments. I know these are lovely to receive but we want to make sure what we are asking of our team is sustainable. I have therefore asked to teachers to offer feedback in several different ways, verbal feedback in live lessons, green ticks via SeeSaw and some written feedback on some pieces of work, in line with our remote learning offer.

### Consultation to Federate:

So much has happened since we began our formal consultation to federate Shere and Clandon. I thought it timely to remind you that this process continues. You can find information on the consultation on both school websites, where you will also find details of how to have your say. This is a crucial decision for both our small schools and your feedback is important to the Governors as they work through this process.

### Nursery Funding at Fox Cubs:

As Fox Cubs Nursery increasingly serves both Shere and Clandon communities I feel it right to keep you all informed of developments. I am pleased to say that Surrey County Council will now be funding children who are registered at Fox Cubs but have chosen not to attend. This means that if your child has a funded place, the nursery will receive this funding even if you decide to keep your child at home. This goes some way to helping us pay staff and other overheads at this difficult time and means that we can hold your child's place until you are ready for them to return.

At the time of writing, all other information sent in our Nursery update last week remains unchanged.

### Critical Workers:

Children who continue to attend school currently are doing so well. For some families we know a school place allows you to be on the frontline in fighting the virus. We are proud to be able to support you in this work.

Please do remember however that children must not come to school if they are unwell, particularly with Covid symptoms. Nor should they be at school if any member of their family has Covid symptoms.

Last week I asked critical workers to ensure they reviewed their need for a place in school. It is very important that we limit contacts on the school site as much as possible. To date there have been no changes as a result of this reminder, but I would ask that you keep your need for a place under constant review.

### Clearing our new Forest School Site:

Work has begun in earnest to clear the Forest School site that we are setting up in collaboration with the Earl of Onslow. Our new Forest School Leader, Mrs Williamson has certainly hit the ground running and between us we have cleared at least 5 tonnes of fly tipping and other litter.

A huge roll-on roll off skip has been delivered to the site today and I can't wait to reclaim this ancient woodland for our children.



Thank you so much to all those who donated to our Just Giving fundraiser. Clearing the fly tipping is hugely expensive but to date we have raised over £2,000!

### [A Message from Jenny Thurston: Help Needed for Guides, Brownies and Rainbows](#)

Are you looking for a new challenge? We have a wonderful team of helpers at Shere, Peaslake & Holmbury St Mary Guides but we are always looking for new people to assist with running our Guide unit and I would thoroughly recommend it as a rewarding activity for any adult. In addition, our Rainbow unit (ages 5-7) and Brownie unit (ages 7-10) have sadly had to close in recent years due to lack of volunteers. It would be wonderful if they could be reinstated so local girls can experience the amazing opportunities offered by Girl Guiding. Please think carefully if you could be part of this new team. Do you have a friend that you could run it with? This makes it so much easier. You do not have to have been a Brownie or a Guide, full training is provided, and support is on hand. There is lots of information on the Girl Guiding website [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/) or email me at [gomshallguides@gmail.com](mailto:gomshallguides@gmail.com) if you are interested and what to find out a bit more about what is involved.

[Many thanks for your continued support for our schools. Keep safe and well.](#)

[Best wishes](#)

[Vicky](#)