



Ditton Junior School

Newsletter November 26th

“Enriching generations to serve and flourish.”

Because this is such a difficult time to build trust and relationships with parents we are aiming to try to offer a weekly or fortnightly update to keep you in the loop. It won't be as jazzy as the newsletters ought to be but we hope it goes some way to helping you feel part of things. This week I've just tried to get the newsletter out early!

We are extremely grateful for the high number of responses to our **parent survey**. The results and our replies to the many comments we received will be with you shortly. I will then offer updates on those responses at two points over the next ten weeks.



Parent Survey

We will survey you again in term 4 to judge impact. Where key issues have arisen we will explain to you how we will tackle them and will ensure that governance checks this regularly after Christmas. Because this is one of the only ways we can work with your **feedback** at present, we are treating all comments with great care. We are especially delighted to receive so many positive comments. The team here work hard and deserve that.



We have continued our immersion in a year group at a time with **Year 4** last week and **Year 3** this week. The pattern overall has been highly pleasing. Without fail, work is being **well pitched** or matched to your children's needs, with **support** for those who need it, and **challenge** for all who master or quickly complete their learning. There is **humour, enthusiasm and fun** in all rooms and the children's attitudes to learning are rapidly returning to pre-lockdown expectations. We are pretty experienced at judging **quality of teaching** (I've even been an OfStEd Inspector!) and we are proud to say that so far, 100% of teaching and teachers is at what OfStEd would call a **'Good' level**. This is impressive, a credit to the staff and children, and is clearly telling us that the current strong and stable staff team is well placed to deliver continued improvement.

You **parents and carers** deserve credit too. The children are as fun and exciting in Years 3 and 4 as we found them in Y5 and Y6, and so polite when we greet them on the gate in the morning. We would also like to thank you for your continued support where we have been establishing expectations of **behaviour and uniform**. We have made some changes to the school Behaviour policy to tighten this up a little. It is just being checked by staff and governors then we will send it out to you.



With regard to the **pandemic**; we have been very fortunate so far as a school, but this week we learned of a child who had tested positive. After seeking advice from **Public Health England** and consulting our risk assessments we had to close our Year 4 bubble for 14 days. We were complimented on how effectively our bubble system reduces contacts but sadly it still means losing a year group for a length of time.



The additional actions are lengthy and take a lot of time but I think we covered everything this first time for us. We wrote to parents in that year group and to all of you with the latest guidance. Home learning was being put in place by mid-morning and please call if you have any questions on that. We review our **risk assessments** and procedures fortnightly at present including cleaning and safety in school. It seems a good time to thank you all for **social distancing** in queues and on the playground and we hope the extra space Mr Byers has created on the playground will allow for this. Please take care to keep your children close by on the walk out to limit mixing of our year group bubbles on site.

As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, Ditton Juniors is a school that sits firmly in its community with a distinctive Christian ethos. We have four key values: **Respect, Empathy, Responsibility and Courage, and** a strapline that states we are here – “**Enriching generations to serve and flourish.**” For our team, you, and the children this week I’d like to share this thought

**Whatever the circumstances, whatever the price,
whatever the sacrifice, his strength will be your
strength in your time of need.**

Psalms 32:7 and Jeremiah 16:19



Richard Sutton-Smith

Flourishing Awards

Here we will list our flourishing awards each newsletter and we plan to also provide awards to home learning heroes regularly for outstanding effort or skill with homework tasks.

3JC – Jacob G
3KS – Betty M
4KM – Maisie C
4SM – Maisy-Jane M
5HN – Lauren M
5LN – Frankie R
6AB – Ellie-Jay S
6MG – Max J

