



Colmers Farm Newsletter



Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you all had a really enjoyable Summer Holiday with your families. Schools are very empty and quiet places without children, and even with the 100 children that we were able to have safely in school before the Summer Holiday, school still did not feel like it normally would. We are however all finally back, and it was wonderful to see everybody's happy, smiley faces walking through the doors yesterday. The staff and I, at Colmers Farm Primary, are all excited to be back and we are all eager to get on with our exciting journey of school improvement, which we made such a good start on before lockdown.

Over the next few weeks, the staff at Colmers Farm will be busily assessing all of our pupils to see what their areas of need are as a result of their lost learning time from the Coronavirus situation. When we have completed this, we will be sending a personalised letter out to you all identifying these areas of need and outlining what support we are providing, and what support we would like you to provide, to help your child to address these areas. We will also be speaking to you all via telephone conversations to talk this through. We hope that you will find this useful.

Now the circumstances have changed, it is more important than ever that your child's attendance at school is as good as it possibly can be. Before the lockdown, our school attendance was the highest it has ever been for that point of the year and we are very eager to improve on this this year. It is vital that all children are in school to minimise as far as possible the longer-term impact of the pandemic on their education, wellbeing and wider development. Please be aware that all usual pre-pandemic rules on school attendance now apply and that parents now run the risk of facing legal sanctions if their children are kept off school without a valid, justifiable reason. Please also see the letter from Miss Kelly today regarding attendance.

In the event of a regional lockdown, another national lockdown or in the event of groups of children having to self-isolate, which we are very much hoping does not happen, we have drawn up plans for most year groups to make use of an online program called Google Classrooms. This will enable teachers to facilitate some direct teaching to pupils at home. Staff will soon be having training on how to use this. Pupils will then receive training and their log in details. When you receive these, please keep these details safe as this will save a lot of time in the event of another full or partial school closure.

This year, we are welcoming two new teachers to Colmers Farm. We have Miss Tonks, who will be working in Year 3, and Miss Thomas who will be an extra teacher in Year 6. An extra teacher in Year 6 is exciting, as this will enable us to use Mr Adams to reduce our class sizes in this year group in the mornings for our maths and English lessons. This will allow these children to have more focused teaching and more teacher time during this very important SATs year. We are also excited to be welcoming Miss McCarron to our school, who will be replacing Miss Hidasi as our sports coach. I am sure that you will join me in wishing all of our new staff every success as they begin what will hopefully be very long, memorable and enjoyable part of their careers at Colmers Farm.

As school returns to a new 'normal', please be assured that we are doing all we can to keep our staff and pupils as safe as we possibly can from Coronavirus. Our Coronavirus risk assessment is available for viewing on the front of our school website and this is regularly updated to take account of updated guidance from the Government that we receive.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope that you all have an enjoyable and safe weekend.

Mr Williams
Headteacher

Colmers Farm School Uniform Policy

School shoes are a must at Colmers and we would appreciate your support with ensuring that your child/children wear these each day, trainers are not part of the school uniform policy. Parents of any child arriving at school wearing trainers will be contacted asking them to bring their child's school shoes into school.

Please ensure that all children in Year 5 and 6 are wearing their school ties. Year 5 will be given their first tie very shortly. Replacements are available to purchase from our school reception very for £3.50.

PARKING

There were unfortunately at least 7 cars parked on the kerb and on double yellow lines this morning. Parents are respectfully reminded that there are double yellow lines all along Leybrook Road. Parking on these lines puts children at risk.



**HELP US TO
KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

Start and End of the Day

Please see our school website for the procedures of children entering and leaving the school. To keep our children safe, you must observe our 2 metre social distance rules at all times. **Only one parent/carer per child will be allowed onto the school premises. Also please remember to stand well clear of the entrances and exits of the school building.**

It is important that children arrive to school on time to enter the school through their allocated entrance. **Please keep children off the Trim Trail.**

Water Bottles

Children will need to bring their own water filled bottles from home as the school's fountain will not be being used during this period. Please remember that only water should be brought into school.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Colmers Farm is a Nut Free School. We request that parents do not send any nut products in their child's lunch box.

We would like to thank you for your understanding and for supporting us with this situation.



TOPIC PROJECTS

Thank you to those parents and children who have been working hard on their topic projects over the holidays. Myself and our teachers are eager to see what you've created. Please see below two fabulous pieces of homework that have already come into school.



Rainforest Topic

Charlie 3B

A rainforest scene

Tudor Topic

Lucy 5TM

**A castle with King Henry and
his 6 wives**

