



Church Hill Infants News

Spring Term Newsletter 2020

3rd April 2020

www.churchhillinfants.co.uk
admin@churchhill-inf.leics.sch.uk

Tel.: 0116 269 2083

@CHISThurmaston

Communication....

Dear Parents / Carers...

There are a number of ways that we will be communicating with you over the coming weeks.

Here are few of the things you need to know:

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#### Church Hill Infant School Website

[www.churchhillinfants.co.uk](http://www.churchhillinfants.co.uk)

*Check the Home Learning pages for useful tips and websites you can visit.*

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Church Hill Twitter Feed

[@CHISThurmaston](https://twitter.com/CHISThurmaston)

We will post challenges, tips and new events that might be of interest. Please remember we love to see pictures of the things you have been doing at home!

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#### Email addresses

[FS@churchhillinfants.co.uk](mailto:FS@churchhillinfants.co.uk)

[Year1@churchhillinfants.co.uk](mailto:Year1@churchhillinfants.co.uk)

[Year2@churchhillinfants.co.uk](mailto:Year2@churchhillinfants.co.uk)

*If you have any questions about the learning or would like any extra advice and support then please email the relevant year group email address and we will contact you.*

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Emergency Contacts

Mrs Balsara - 07745773782

Head teacher / Lead safeguarding

Mrs Elliott - 07745773842

Deputy Head / Deputy safeguarding

Mrs Creighton - 07394912367

Assistant Head / Deputy safeguarding

Dean Pomeroy - BEP - 07741857735

Please only use these numbers in case of an emergency /safeguarding concern

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#### Studybugs

*If you haven't already done so please download the app and register your child. We will send regular communications via this system and we will be asking you to respond to well being checks.*

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>

*or download the app via Apple Store or Google Play*

It wasn't quite the end to Spring term we were expecting and I must begin by thanking the whole school community for being so supportive over the last two weeks as we face these unprecedented times and the different types of challenges it brings.

Here at Church Hill Infants, we understand that this is a really difficult time for all of our families. People are juggling work, children of different ages, home learning, family members that need help, housework, and their own worries, to name a few! The most important message we would like to send you is, it is ok to not be ok. Nobody has ever lived through times like these before, and everyone is trying their best.

Our main priority for our children and their families is that they stay safe, happy and healthy. We are not expecting everyone to become professional teachers! Some of you will find home learning more challenging than others. Sometimes you will feel like you have had a productive day, sometimes it will all go a bit wrong! Sometimes just getting to the end of the day is all you will be focussed on. This is definitely ok.

For those of you that have got into a little routine, it has been lovely to see families rising to the learning challenges set by our staff through twitter and the website. Despite school being closed for the foreseeable future, we want our pupils to continue to enjoy learning; the teachers are determined to find creative ways to inspire them (albeit remotely!) and most importantly support you to keep them occupied whilst they are at home. Teachers are gearing up for more twitter and youtube challenges - so please do continue to check in on a daily basis!

As the weather warms, I am sure you will be keen to use your outdoor spaces to fuel your children's curiosity and imagination (not forgetting burning off that ever increasing energy!) There is no fixed way to home learn so please feel free to be as creative as you like with the resources the teachers share with you!

We also understand that your home is full of people with their own worries and challenges. The novelty of being at home will be wearing off for some children, and they will be missing the routine of school and their friends. Help them to adjust with lots of cuddles, as much play as you can fit around your own routine, and snuggling up with a good book, game, or movie. Learning is important, of course, but worried children won't learn from anxious parents - do whatever you need to keep your family safe and happy. In this newsletter you will find Mrs Corcoran's helpful tips to deal with anxiety and keep wellbeing at the forefront as a family.

Lastly, thank you to the parents (including keyworkers) who have found ways to keep their children safe at home. We understand that this may have been tricky to organise but this has enabled our school to provide capacity to keep our emergency provision open as well as maximising on the social distancing guidance for those children and staff who attend the provision.

We miss our Church Hill Infant family dearly and are glad to hear that most of you are safe and healthy. The staff and I have enjoyed reading the kind messages received from our families via the Studybugs App. Although it is not the same as meeting you face to face, we will continue to support you the best we can and will conduct regular wellbeing checks during the period of school closure. (Please do respond to these messages as we want to know if you are safe and well!) Although we don't know when it will be, we are looking forward to seeing you all again but for now stay safe and look after each other.

Mrs Balsara and the Church Hill Infant School Team



## Staff, pupil and family wellbeing ...

Here are a few hints and tips that we feel may help you and your children adjust and cope during this time. If you have any good coping tips of your own, please tweet them or email them – let's all help each other out!

- ◆ Limit social media and Coronavirus discussion (especially around children). Watch the key messages on the news, but try not to get too overwhelmed. There is so much information around, and it is often sensationalized and very negative. [Try limiting yourself to a few 'checks' a day.](#)
- ◆ Help your children to notice the 'helpers'. As with all difficult times, there are always people doing amazing things. Find the good. Talk about the key workers in your lives and the good they are doing. Find stories of people donating and supporting. [Celebrate all the people doing the right thing, and the pockets of happiness.](#)
- ◆ Although for some people this will prove difficult and some days it will be harder than others, please try and [Talk daily about what you are grateful for.](#) However hard it may seem, there is always something there. Are you grateful to be together? Are you grateful that you found your favourite cereal in the shops? Are you grateful you are healthy?
- ◆ Do something that makes you laugh every day, even when you don't feel like laughing. Tell silly jokes, watch a silly video on the internet, dance in the kitchen. [Remember how much your smile means to those around you. PLAY!](#)
- ◆ The government have recognised what a difficult time for everybody this is, and they have made sure there are resources to help you online if you feel like you need some support. [Reach out for help if you need it.](#) There is a list of some useful links below.

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/> for tips to cope with anxiety, and how to help maintain your mental wellbeing if you are staying at home. They also have a Mind Plan (<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/your-mind-plan-quiz/>), a quick and simple quiz that you can fill in to get advice tailored to you and your family.

The charity Mind also have some excellent tips. Visit <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>.

## Online safety ...

Now that learning is taking place at home, you may find that technology plays a big part in helping with home learning tasks. As well as this, children may be using technology and smart devices to play games and watch videos when they are not learning from home.

A few general E-safety tips are:

- \* Encourage screen breaks
- \* Monitor children's online activity
- \* Check age-ratings of games/films
- \* Implement safety controls on devices/apps
- \* Have regular, positive discussions with children about what they are doing online so that if they come across anything they are not sure about then they feel able to talk to you about it.



It is important to be aware of a games PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating before you allow your child to play a particular game. If you are not sure of a games PEGI rating then you can download the 'PEGI ratings' app where you can find out the ratings for many games and also how to set up parental controls on a range of devices. This is also available on a computer if you are unable to download the app. Below are the PEGI ratings for some of the popular games:

Fortnite: 12

Minecraft: 7

Roblox: 7

We also want parents to be aware of other popular apps/websites that children may access like youtube and TikTok, so we have attached some links from the National Online Safety website where you can find more information on these apps/websites, how you can monitor your child's activity and how to apply restrictions.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/what-parents-need-to-know-about-tiktok>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/what-parents-need-to-know-about-youtube>

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/what-parents-need-to-know-about-children-s-devices>

## Foundation Stage updates ....

We apologise for the confusion over the email for Foundation Stage. As a reminder, the email is [FS@churchhillinfants.co.uk](mailto:FS@churchhillinfants.co.uk). We are here to answer any questions that you have, and would love to see photographs of what you have been up to!



The Foundation Stage staff have been missing you all very much, but have kept themselves busy with lots of fun home learning... maybe you have been doing some of these things too! Let us know on Twitter (@CHISThurmaston), or send us an email.

Mrs Hussein has been baking with her son...he had a go at all of the mixing (and, of course, the tasting!) Have a look on our website for the recipe if you would like to make your own.



Mr Vazifdar has been busy planting lots of lovely things for you to spot when we return back to school...they haven't started growing yet, but they will be enormous by the summer!



He has planted strawberries, tomatoes, onions, potatoes, carrots, beetroots, radishes and sunflowers.

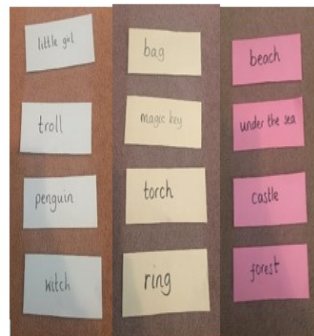
See if you can work out where they are from the pictures.

Have you planted anything at home?

Mrs Basigara played a story telling game with her daughter, it was great fun! See if you can have a go too... you can copy her ideas, or make up some of your own!

Put some characters on one colour paper (or one 'shape' of paper, if you don't have different colours), some objects on another, and places for your story on another.

Mix them up, spread them out, choose one of each, and then have a go at using them to tell a story!



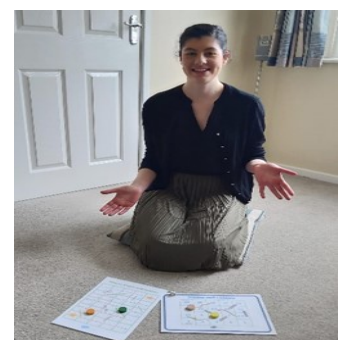
Mrs Corcoran and her children have been doing the 30 day lego challenge.

It's a great way to get creative! So far they have built a circus, a rocket, and they are currently half way through designing a house (some of the challenges have kept them busy for much longer than a day!)



Miss Dolby has been playing board games...remembering how to count on and count back, and not count the square she is sitting on.

This is a great way to practice your maths, and uses all the skills you need to be able to use a number line!





First of all we would like to say what a great start to the Spring term we had at school! We did lots of learning all around our topics of Space and Spring. The children thoroughly enjoyed these!



It is hard to pick out all of the fantastic things we did, but we thought some of our highlights were;

- learning about the different astronauts
- designing and making our own rockets
- exploring plants
- cooking pitta bread and rock cakes



As well as all of those great activities, we held our first reading café and we celebrated world book day by learning about various authors and decorating a vegetable! We had some very creative entries into our competition, so thank you for all of those.



The classes explored books written by Jill Murphy, Oliver Jeffers and Julia Donaldson. Activities included split pin elephants, drawing in one colour only and finding books by a specific author.

We have seen some amazing home learning / work being shared on twitter. Many of you have been creating rainbows and other colourful pictures to share important messages and show support for the people that help us. Don't worry if you haven't done one yet— this is something you could do over the Easter holiday.



The teachers have also been keeping themselves busy and have been spending time developing new skills and helping their children.

- Miss Jeffery has been learning to crochet
- Mrs Creighton has been making Easter nest cakes with her children and they have been riding their scooters for exercise each day
- Mrs Dickens is learning to play the piano
- Mrs Purnell and her children have been creative—they have made kites and flown them in the garden.

We would love to hear if any of you have learnt a new skill!

Spring term has been very busy in Year 2. We have loved our topic 'What a Wonderful World' and have really enjoyed learning to appreciate our amazing planet both far away and closer to home.



We tried to think about how we can improve our world and have thought of lots of ways to make things better. We did some litter picking during our walk around Watermead Park and were inspired to write to our local MP, Edward Argar, about how he could help us further.

We were thrilled to receive an official reply from the House of Commons!



Our residential trip to Beaumanor Hall was another huge success this year the children thoroughly enjoyed spending time with their friends and exploring the grounds. We would like to thank all the staff that helped on this trip.



The highlights of our trip included:

Playing on the adventure park

Eating dinner in the big hall

The Colour party

Climbing trees

Sleeping in bunk beds!

The end of term has been extremely unusual but we have been really proud of how our classes have coped and the sensible way that they have talked about what is happening.

It has also been great to see how involved the children have got in the home learning tasks. Through Twitter we have been able to see some of your beautiful rainbows and some fantastic responses to Mr Mayhew's Maths Challenges.

We enjoy seeing the things you have been doing at home so please keep sharing!



The teachers have also been keeping themselves busy over the last week:

- Miss Jones has been training for a half marathon
- Mrs Lissaman has been experimenting with new recipes for family dinners
- Mrs Elliott has been spending time in the garden looking after the lawn and plants
- Mr Mayhew has been working hard on his map of London jigsaw



Have a lovely Easter everyone and stay safe.



## Free School Meal Shopping Vouchers

For those parents who are eligible to receive FSM, we have organised for online Tesco vouchers to be sent directly to your email address. These should be with you in the next few days and will cover the cost of meals your child would normally have in school (you will not be eligible for these vouchers if your child attends the emergency provision). We will be using the Department for Education's preferred scheme (EDENRED) after the Easter break and will send further information about this in the next few weeks.

If you are in receipt of benefits and/ or are experiencing difficulties please email the school office for an application form.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



## Home Learning through Seesaw



At some point in the next two weeks you will receive an email from the school which will have your child's unique log-in details for the home learning platform 'Seesaw'.

This platform can be accessed through an app for mobile phones and tablets or on the desktop site ([web.seesaw.me](http://web.seesaw.me)).

When you log in you will be able to see what home learning tasks have been set—we will set new activities each week. As well as seeing the tasks and any videos / resources the year group teachers may have put on, you can also upload your child's work on there so we can see what they have been up to.

Please note that only teachers will be able to see the work you post—seesaw is not a public forum.

Family is not an important thing,  
it's **everything**



Take care and  
stay safe  
From your  
Church Hill  
Family