

Easter Egg Hunt

A huge thank you to the PTA and Mrs Douglass for organising an Easter egg hunt for the whole school this week.



I was rather surprised to bump into the Easter Bunny as I walked around the school and I know that this will have made it even more special for the children, who have been raving about their wonderful afternoon.

Thank you Mr Howse

At the start of the year, Mr Howse entered a draw to win a girls football kit and we are delighted to have won! This is wonderful news – thank you so much Mr Howse.

Netball congratulations

Well done to our year 5 and 6 netballers who played two matches at Chiddingstone recently. The children won all their matches and I know that Mr Taylor is extremely proud of you all. I was lucky enough to attend the second match and was extremely impressed with the way in which you listened to Mr Taylor and responded to his instructions, improving and honing your skills all the time. Well done!

School Council

In School council the children have been thinking about our second nurture principle: The classroom offers a safe space. The children were asked to reflect on their feelings about their own classrooms, thinking about what they like, dislike and the impact it has on their learning.

Do you feel safe at school?

- Yes, we have friends and there's plenty of adults.
- Teachers are supportive, they take care of you
- The fences keep us safe and we have alarms for intruders
- We do drills so we know what to do
- I know how to keep myself safe

Do you think being safe helps you to learn?

- If you feel safe and relaxed it's easier for everyone to learn.
- Yes, we have a more concentrated mind
- We feel safe around the teachers, so we can ask better learning questions.
- We feel more confident

Where do you feel safe in school?

- Anywhere
- The field – it's completely surrounded
- Inside – there's lots of people
- I feel safe everywhere
- In a classroom
- Nurture nook

Who could you talk to if you felt unsafe?

- A teacher
- A trusted adult
- A friend
- Leading Lights, House captains
- Wellbeing ambassadors
- Our families – parents or siblings
- Anyone we feel comfortable talking to

Why do you think this is important?

- Because it helps us emotionally
- If we didn't it would impact our health
- Stress can come out on someone else
- Worries can fade rather than grow.
- So that you get your worries out
- If you're safe, it's easier to learn
- So we can keep our school a happy place
- It's good to be safe at school

Toby and Jackson Coles both made their basketball debut for Sevenoaks Suns this Saturday, playing in the Kent league. Jackson played two years above his age in the U10s to make an incredible partnership with his brother. Neither had played basketball before being introduced to it at school. Both boys scored and Jackson scored an incredible three pointer in the opening minutes. Well done boys.



Working with such a wonderful team has enabled the school to really flourish. I am very proud of the part I have played in making Ide Hill School a thriving place to learn and grow and I feel exceptionally lucky to have been a part of it for so long. My years at the school have been wonderful and have given me the pleasure of seeing hundreds of children develop as confident, successful young adults. I know that I am leaving the school in very safe and capable hands with Miss Alexander and Miss Johnson at the helm and that they will continue to drive the school forwards.

Before I say farewell, I really must thank you all for your kindness. It has been an extremely emotional week however, I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to say goodbye to governors, staff, children and parents. I have been overwhelmed by the many ways in which you have wished me well. Your cards and presents have been so thoughtful and generous – I am particularly looking forward to planting my beautiful Hazel tree. I will think of you all each time I look at it. Thank you for all my lovely vouchers – you are too kind.

So, thank you everyone for making my time at Ide Hill School so exceptional. I am leaving as a very proud Headteacher and with memories that will remain with me forever. I will miss being a part of our community terribly, so I know that this will not be the last that you see of me. Ide Hill will always have a very special place in my heart so I plan to visit often and take a keen interest in the continued flourishing of the school

It only remains for me to wish you all a very Happy Easter. I hope that you have a fantastic break with your families. It has been a long and very emotional journey, but my husband and I are very much looking forward to being able to finally celebrate Easter for the first time with our son.

Mrs Hillman

A message from Mrs Fletcher

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Hillman for everything she has done for the school over the last 10 years. She will be hugely missed and we hope she will come back and see us lots! We wish her every good luck and happiness for her future. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Mrs Fletcher

A Parking Plea

Just a reminder please, not to park in the disabled bay outside of the school unless you have a blue badge and are legally entitled to. The bay is there for our families who are unable to park further away.

Upcoming School Dates for Your Diary	
15 th April	Start of Term 5

Farewell

It feels very strange knowing that this will be my last newsletter. It has brought me great joy to share the many achievements and experiences of our children, staff and local community over the years and it makes me extremely proud of our wonderful village school.

Over the last ten years there has been enormous change – continuous work to our school curriculum and focus on wellbeing, three building projects, the removal of the mobile classroom from the KS2 playground, changing the class structure to accommodate single age classes and just as we thought we could relax a little, the pandemic took us by surprise. Many of you have stopped me this week to remind me of all that I have achieved but I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire staff and governor team and indeed our whole school community for your shared contribution and success. Our achievements as a school are a celebration of the whole community, past and present, working together and I really cannot take the praise for what has always been a terrific team effort.