



IVY CHIMNEYS CHATTER



Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to the new term. If I could begin by thanking everyone for their very kind wishes, cards and gifts at the end of last term. The staff were very appreciative of your kindness and

generosity.

I'm delighted that the children have started back in earnest and are very focussed on their new topics. Our teaching staff have prepared Curriculum newsletters and these were uploaded to our website last week. Please see each newsletter attached to this ParentMail.

As some of you will be aware, we have begun our work on developing a Growth Mindset culture. This is a new initiative that will require everyone in the Ivy Chimneys community to support and promote. During the non-pupil day last Monday, the staff participated in Growth Mindset training and learnt about the shift in how and what we say to children and how we should encourage children to think and reflect upon how they

overcome setbacks, learn from mistakes, embrace challenge and focus on their development. The work we have started on Learning Behaviours dovetails nicely with developing a Growth Mindset culture so we are already quite a long way on this journey.

To give an example of this change in attitude and language, how often do we hear children say "I can't do this!" However, if we subtly change this to "I can't do this yet" it is a nod towards "If we keep trying, we can be successful!" The word 'trying' also means to practice and we have been talking to children about how practice, practice, practice is essential in being successful, as modelled by sportsmen and women, entrepreneurs, scientists, artists, writers, mathematicians etc.

We are very excited by this new initiative and hope you will join us in promoting this with your children. More information will follow on our website.

Jonathan Furness, Head Teacher

UNIFORM

On Monday, I spoke to children in assembly about ensuring they are wearing the correct uniform to school. I have noticed that there are a number of children who are not wearing the correct items to school. This extends to ensuring they are wearing green cardigans or sweatshirts, black, green or grey tights, and school shoes only. Some children are wearing Ugg boots which whilst they appear warm, aren't very practical when they get wet. We have a policy of no nail varnish or hooped earrings, but studs are permitted. To review the full list of uniform and PE kits, please refer to our website:

<http://www.ivychimneys.net/parents/school-uniform>

SNOW CLOSURE

We will try to keep the school open whenever possible. However, should it be necessary to close due to staff not being able to get to school, we will use ParentMail, Twitter and our school website to announce any school closure. Local radio stations are no longer providing school closure information. A decision to close the school will be made as soon as possible on each day. **Please do not phone the school office to ask if the school is open as this will heed our ability to make the necessary outgoing calls.**

@IC_EYFS @IC_Chestnut @IC_Birch @IC_Elm
@IC_Rowan @IC_Hornbeam @IC_Plane @IC_Maple
@IC_Beech @IC_Walnut @IC_Office @IC_Council @FOICs

PARENT FORUM

The Parent Forum met on Tuesday to discuss a number of issues. Much of the meeting centred around how the new classes are organised and the decisions that are taken to create them. We agreed that the school would provide some greater clarity on the process and decisions that are made. I will ensure this information becomes available after the Easter break.

LEARNING BEHAVIOUR

Our Learning Behaviour focus for this term is 'Reflection' where we will be guiding our children in reflecting on how they can improve their work. Well done to Grigoris who designed 'Ralph' our reflective Elephant!



IMPORTANT DATES

Fri 15th Jan	Hornbeam Class Assembly
Fri 22nd Jan	Elm Class Assembly
Fri 29th Jan	Walnut Class Assembly
Fri 5th Feb	Ash Class Assembly
Tues 9th Feb	KS1 SATS Meeting - 2:30pm
Fri 12th Feb	Plane Class Assembly

Tel: 01992 573518

Absence Tel: 01992 578162

Fax: 01992 560417

email: admin@ivychimneys.essex.sch.uk

website: www.ivychimneys.essex.sch.uk

twitter: @IvyChimneys