



St Bridget's (C of E) Primary School

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Wednesday 1st July 2020

Dear Parents

As we are approaching the end of the summer term it has been great to welcome over 40% of our children back into school, this has been no easy task but we wanted to help as many families as we possibly could. Nationally government are saying 25% of children have returned to school so for a small school we have done well to reach so many. I would like to stress it is important not to read social media and fall into the trap of comparing schools, as all schools are different and are doing their best in difficult circumstances and it is impossible to do a like for like comparison. I can guarantee some schools will have taken more and some will have taken less but **all** schools wish they could take everyone! and we are very grateful for your support and understanding on what we have achieved.

Phone calls

Unfortunately this does mean many of you have not had the opportunity to return to school as we would have all liked. We appreciate also that not all of you wish for your children to return just yet either or you are shielding as a family. Staff have been ringing/face timing children not in school weekly for a catch up and all of these meetings have been extremely positive and it has been great to speak to you and your children. If you have not had a call this will be because you have not been in/available so please email your teacher if you have a different contact number you would like us to use.

Delivery of books/Equipment

We have also been able to deliver (or families have been collecting) printed work, reading books etc to some families who have taken us up on our offer,. I have particularly enjoyed visiting families and catching up! So please let us know if you need help with anything.

Planned Play sessions for all children over the next two weeks

Over the past couple of weeks we have been trying to plan a way to meet up with our children who have not been able to return to school. We have risk assessed many suggestions to find a way that meets the rules of social distancing. Considering the beaches we have seen in the media, it is also essential that we, as a school community, set a good example too.

So over the last two weeks, we are offering for year groups (**not classes**) to meet at the school field (unless stated differently below) to see each other and to play non contact PE type activities. This will have to be weather permitting as our meetings will need to be outside where there is a decreased risk of passing on infection. Parents will **not** be allowed to stay and watch as this would constitute a large gathering, so you will need to drop your child off at the bottom of the path to the field on Lawson Garth where they will be



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met by an adult. You will also collect them from there too and please be mindful of social distancing around each other when waiting to collect.

If your child is in school that day, they will walk up to/back from the field with school staff and remain in school until home time. Your child will need to bring a water bottle and we will provide a snack. **There is no obligation for your child to attend and you must not let other people's decisions sway yours, it is entirely up to you.**

Monday 6 th July –	Year 4 - 9.45-10.45
Tuesday 7 th July –	Year 6 - 10.30-11.30 Year 5 - 1.30-2.30
Wednesday 8 th July	Reception – (Adventure playground at school) 9.45-10.45
Thursday 9 th July	Year 1 and 2 - 9.30-10.30 Year 3 - 1.30-2.30
Monday 13 th July	Reception New Starters (children only) please drop off at reception play area fence 9.30-10.30 Year 4 - 9.45-10.45
Wednesday 15 th July –	Year 6 - 10.30-11.30 Year 5 - 1.30-2.30
Thursday 16 th July	Year 1 and 2 - 9.30-10.30 Year 3 - 1.30-2.30

Year 6 Transition to Secondary School

A lot of work has also be carried out between our school and Cockermouth School ready for the Year 6's moving up to secondary school in September. Unfortunately they are unable to visit prior to September, so this process has been more difficult this year. However our children are at an advantage to some children who are not from a Cockermouth feeder school, as ours have had previous visits from Year 5 onwards, some children will be starting in September not knowing any children or staff and having never been inside the building. Essential information sharing processes have also taken place as normal either through zoom or email. Cockermouth School have also made a series of videos which are available to view on their website which we have previously emailed out to Year 6 families.

Last Thursday Mr Routledge and Mrs Fox (from Cockermouth School) trialled linking our Year 6's in school, Year 6's at home and themselves in a Microsoft teams meeting, once everyone managed to link successfully (which took a little while and caused great excitement) we had a really good meeting where the teachers could 'meet' the children and each child had an opportunity to say something about themselves and to ask any questions about moving up.

The latest video clip is a tour of the school which your child may wish to watch – it also gives some information about what to expect when they go there , this can viewed at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UmMzpnwcUqLj6AXFrB_oVIvooxbs-RDL/view



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As more information comes out we will continue to keep you updated.

NISCU

Niscu have also been working with us to produce a Transition Collective Worship and a booklet for each Year 6 child. Normally they would visit school to do this but they have produced some on line materials and booklets were delivered by Rev Adrian Thompson – these will be with you shortly. If you wish to view the collective worship it can be seen through this link :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brjgRtFI9-E>

New Starters to Nursery and Reception

Mrs Taylor and Mrs Rutter have also been making links with our school new starters, a couple of new families have joined already who have parents as key workers. This seems to have gone well and their children have settled in well. Our new reception class will visit for an hour in the last week of term as you will have seen above, as it is important at their age they can picture where they are going to be when they start after summer.

Early Years 30 Hour Codes

If you are planning on using your 30hr free child care in September (Nursery children only) – please make sure you renew your code asap so they will still be valid for your return. If you think you would be eligible for this and do not claim it already please get in touch with school.

Home schooling

You will be very pleased to know there are not many days left of home schooling to go! As working parents ourselves we share your pain! I think most teachers, parents and children have had more than enough of this across the whole of the country and will be only too glad when we can get back to some normality.

You have all done so well at coping with this and all of you have approached it in different ways to suit your family needs.

Speaking to lots of other schools, none of us have managed to find a way that suits every household as this is impossible to do. Every school has had some families who have loved it, some who have hated it, some in between and some who have not engaged at all due to personal circumstances.

No one expected home schooling to go on for as long as it has either, but our aim was always to make sure you got a mix of some direction and some freedom to choose what you can do and when to fit in with your own family/work without feeling like it was piling up if you couldn't get it all done. We tried to find a balance of technology/non technology too as some families don't have access to computers and ipads or only have a mobile phone for several children to use which poses many problems if there is an over reliance and may isolate some families.

You will have seen in the news that schools in Leicester have had to re-close due to a spike in rates of infection (including school children), government are also saying such spikes could occur in the winter too, mainly in schools and factories. Hopefully this will not happen but over the next few weeks we will be reviewing home schooling ready for the Autumn term in preparation, so everyone will be prepared.

Summer Holiday Childcare – CASS

I have attached a flier from CASS Holiday Club in Cockermouth which I know some of you have previously used. They are offering childcare over summer but only have limited places as they too need to follow government guidelines and will not be able to cater for their usual amount of families.



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Plans for next Year

It is very hard to say what is going to happen in September as it is too far away in pandemic terms and it could change so many times between now and then. As a staff we spent weeks preparing for a June re-opening which was very much a wasted effort, as most of it changed on return and new plans had to be made.

However, at the present moment, it is looking like we will re-open to all pupils in September and hopefully in a way that we can return to being an educational establishment and not a limited child care facility , as all schools are currently operating as.

We are very much look forward to having everyone back to together , this may be slightly different to normal running for a little while, as it may mean no visitors or parents on premises, no whole school collective worship or events , frequent cleaning and hand washing, staggered playtimes etc we don't really know just yet.

What I do know is everyone wants this to happen and that is what we are currently working towards as a school. As time goes on and probably towards the end of the summer holidays we will keep you updated with our plans.

Yours sincerely

LJ Hemingway

Mrs L J Hemingway
Headteacher



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