



St. Anne's C.E. (VC) Primary School

"Together with God, Making Learning a Life Long Friend"

11th February, 2021

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE PERSON WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

RE ; UPDATE FROM MR. HOBSON

As we come to the end of an incredibly difficult half term where many of you have worked tirelessly to support your child/ren and the school in remote learning, I thought it was important to write to you to express my personal thanks to everyone who has helped children learn remotely. We are very aware this is by no means an easy feat and many of you are balancing your own employment with your child's education whilst at the same time coping with the demands that lockdown brings. For many of us, this means restricted access to family and friends and a desire to return to some kind of normality. Your support is much appreciated and we thank you for doing such an amazing job.

We here at St Anne's C.E. Primary School hope we can fully open to the whole school on 8th March, but we are dependent on DFE and government announcements, which we believe will come on Monday, 22nd February. Whatever announcement is made on that date, please allow us time to draw up plans for whatever situation we find ourselves in. We will communicate this to parents and carers as soon as we can.

Next week is half term, which we hope you can enjoy and thereafter there will be two further weeks of remote learning dependant on announcements on 22nd February. Please note we still have a number of laptops we can still loan out to support your child. Should you require one, please contact the office.

Over the last week or so, we have seen increasing media speculation about what the government might, or might not, have in mind when it comes to the 'catch-up' agenda. I think it is important to start by saying that at the moment there have been no concrete proposals put forward by the government: all reports are speculation. At St. Anne's, we firmly believe that 'catch-up' is a multi-focussed approach that needs to focus on the whole child, their well-being and mental health. Children need time (as I am sure you do!) to catch-up with their friends, hug their grandparents and play football with their friends. The mental-wellbeing of the child is the most

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important thing in catch-up and only when we can be confident that children are happy within themselves, can learning and any 'catch-up' learning be applied. Indeed, if the children are all back in school on 8th March we will be holding an ECO week where children can plant trees on the school field and have time to socially interact with their friends. We will also be looking at ways to ensure that children have extra opportunities for physical and mental breaks to ensure the 'whole' child is looked after. Supporting pupils as they return to a sense of 'normality' is about so much more than quick academic fixes. It is a long-term project that focuses on supporting children socially and emotionally, as well as academically.

Finally, something we are incredibly proud of: a number of our children and the critical worker children in school have created 'Hugs In A Box'. These are little parcels that include letters and pictures from the children and small gifts for local residents who may be vulnerable or lonely in our local community. These have been sent out with the help of the Parish Council to local residents to let them know that we are here to support them through these sad and difficult times. We have been inundated with responses from the local community about how much these Hugs in a Box have meant to people. We have heard some heart-breaking stories and have been delighted to hear how our acts have gone to brighten up people's days. We continue to receive these letters and children write back as pen pals. I must individually thank Mrs. Barnett (Y1 teacher), Mr. Holdcroft (Site Technician), the whole staff and the Parish Council for helping implement and organise such a wonderful idea.

Once again, thank you for your unequivocal support and we hope all families stay safe and have a restful and peaceful half term.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. E. Hobson
Headteacher

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