



Ancaster
Church of England Primary School

Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we complete week 1 of Term 6 in what is one of the most bizarre and uncertain years I have ever experienced in my career, I do feel very proud of our school community which has pulled together so brilliantly to support one another and it is testament to the closely forged links we have made over time that the work of the school and families to provide the very best for our children has got us to this point. It is fair to say that the lockdown has felt difficult, frustrating and never ending at times but I think we should all feel proud that we are where we are!

Much has been happening in school recently to prepare for our very gradual reopening, which will start with an increased number of key worker children and due to space constraints (as instructed by the Department for Education) our Reception children. We have worked to government guidance in ensuring the classrooms, and the wider school setting, meet the expectations of how we should now be operating in these very unusual times. Please find attached to the ParentHub message a selection of photographs that show how each classroom looks now that social distancing and the removal of resources has been coordinated. When the lockdown was introduced, schools were initially repurposed as 'childcare' and we have worked hard throughout this time to provide high quality educational experiences every day rather than simple childcare and when we return on Monday and move into our newly formed 'bubbles', we have been able to structure the bubbles into age appropriate groups meaning we can leave all trace of the childcare expectations behind as we ensure that we consistently return to being what we inherently are (a school) to do the thing we love to do (teaching)! We simply cannot wait!

For the children and families who remain at home, whilst you might not be coming back to the physical building at this time-you are as much a part of our school as ever and we miss you SO very much! There is no denying that our school looks physically different and is not quite the same as it was but fundamentally it will never be the same because YOU are not with us and we hope that you are all ok and safe. Your usual school adults are always on hand to answer any emails that you send and we just love to see all of the pictures of your hard work-keep sending them in as often as you can! All teachers will continue sending work out for children at home 3 times per week-if you need anything, please do let us know. We are proud of each and every one of you and everything you have achieved so far-keep shining brightly!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming an increased number of children back into school, our only wish and desire is that more children could return at this point but we know that the very first steps that we take right now must be slow and very gradual to ensure maximum safety and one further thing we do know is that we will all be back together soon and we are now one step closer to achieving this as the lockdown begins to be eased.

Have a very lovely weekend and I shall look forward to seeing you, or being in touch with you, soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Sam Eden
Headteacher

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