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Newsletter no. 9

5th March 2021

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your continued support. As I've said before I am very aware some of you can't wait for Monday and have bunting up ready, whereas others are finding this confusing, anxious and daunting or a mixture of everything. I wanted to provide some additional details on the plans for welcoming everyone back to on-site education on **Monday 8th March**.

All information regarding the reopening of school to all pupils was shared earlier in the week via email. If you have misplaced the information, it will be available on the school website.

School Uniform

We have had a few queries about school uniform. On our wider reopening to pupils, we will be fully expecting our normal uniform requirements for all pupils. This is in line with the current government guidance, which makes it clear that uniforms do not need to be cleaned more than usual.

Google Classroom and live lessons

With the resumption of 'normality' back in the classroom, staff will no longer be leading live lessons. However, we will still be using Google Classroom for sharing homework, news etc. One of the few positives to come out of the school closures has been the change in educator's use of virtual platforms and, as a school, I hope we continue to utilise the many skills and knowledge we have all developed. I would personally like to thank the staff for their dedication in supporting pupils working at home, as well as giving parents a 'pat on the back' in their 'Deputy Teacher' role!

World Book Day

We had a wonderful World Book Day, both in and out of school. Children and staff wore PJs and dressing gowns and lots of fun activities were shared. Our Virtual Library ([link here](#)) was a huge hit and has given us further ideas for expansion. The children had some yummy lunches (the James and the Giant Peach Crumble was definitely my favourite) and there were some brilliantly designed book doors. A lot of the work is available to view on our [Facebook](#) and Twitter pages.



PE Timetable

As mentioned in the organisation document, children can come to school in PE kits on their allocated PE days. If the weather is poor, please make sure they have coats, legs covered etc. PE days are as follows:

Monday - Y6	Tuesday - Y1 & Y5
Wednesday - Reception & Y4	Thursday - Y2 & Y3

Book Amnesty

From next week, pupils can start taking reading books home. We have noticed that there are significant gaps in our book boxes and that many haven't been returned from home. If you have school books at home, please can you return them either with your child or in the box that will be placed outside the school office. Thanks.

European Settlement Scheme

Since leaving the European Union, the EU settlement scheme (EUSS) was introduced to offer EU, EEA and Swiss citizens the opportunity to protect their right to continue living in the UK. If families wish to remain in the UK they must apply to the EUSS via an online form. **The application process is free but families must apply by the deadline of 30th June 2021.** The Children's Society is offering free support in the North East (with interpreters if required.) Please see the link to their website below.

<https://www.eurozoom.uk/index.php/news/48-the-children-society-euss-support.html>

And finally...

As I said at the start, we are aware that some pupils or parents may be anxious or concerned about returning, so please be reassured that we are all working to make this as smooth a transition as possible. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The children of 2020, which our pupils will be known as, are special and we must let them know this. I ask that you share the following poem with them this weekend.

To the children of 2020/21

Little ones,

You have no idea how brave you are. How strong you have been.

You woke up one day and your whole world had changed, you lost so much so quickly and it never really came back. You have taken it all in your stride.

I try my best to explain to you what's going on but no one really knows.

I try to shield you from the worst of the worry but it's hard, it's all around you.

I hope I am doing ok, I hope I made you feel safe.

I hope I got the balance right between keeping you close and happy and trying to keep your foot on the ladder of life and learning - because it's been hard.

But you have been amazing.

You have often held back your tears and accepted the restrictions and the removal of all the things you really love.

My heart has broken for you many times.

And we are still going through it now.

It's a rollercoaster and we are both strapped in for the ride, together.

I hope you felt that.

I hope you felt me there, behind you, every step of the way.

You are a child of 2020, and that makes you extremely special indeed.

One day you will see just how brave you have been.

Until then, I have got you.

Take care and see you ALL on Monday!

Mr P Craig

