



Capacity - half-full?



Summer Term Newsletter 8th June 2020



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Dear Parents / Carers,

At the start of a new term, we are still coping with the Covid 19 pandemic and adapting to a new 'normal'. I hope that, during these unprecedented times of lock down, you have managed to enjoy the weather and family time.

Re-opening of the school

Last week marked the partial re-opening of the school to a number of Puffin, Lapwing, Curlew and Key Worker children. I would like to say a huge thank you to parents, carers and children who have done such an incredible job of maintaining social distancing at drop off and collection times. A big thank you, too, to everyone for following our one-way system around the school.

I would also like to thank every one for their messages of support for the staff at the school last week.

Thank you, also, to everyone who answered the various questionnaires about attendance over the final part of the term. I also appreciate the emails detailing personal circumstances from parents unable or apprehensive about taking up a requested place but who are intending to when they can or need to.

This has allowed us to organise Pods so there is sufficient space and staff to keep the children and adults safe ensuring the school can open in a safe manner. This is our primary concern.

Without exception, the children have settled into the new routines, following all the hygiene rules, showing great resilience and willingly stepping up to the challenges of being in different classrooms with different adults.

We would like to assure those of you still at home that we have certainly not forgotten you.

So, communication between home and school continues to be vitally important, especially as we now know that the full return of all children before September is unlikely.

For the remainder of the Summer Term, teachers will phone families to check in and home learning packs will be available on the website. Google Classroom will be used for teacher assignments and opportunity to upload your work for feedback.

Home Learning

At the moment, Weeks 9 and 10 (Sport and the Rainforest) are on the website. From Monday 15th June, the next set of Home Learning Packs will be uploaded by teachers, who will also be setting assignments on Google classrooms for their own classes. Paper packs will be left outside the main entrance as before for those parents who have requested them. We would ask that you follow the one-way system and social distancing markings. New Home Learning Packs & tasks will continue to be provided throughout the term to support children learning at home.

Transition Arrangements

We are also aware that our Y6 pupils have had to become accustomed a very different end to the Summer Term and their time at Padstow School than that they were looking forward to. We are sorry that these children must be SO disappointed to miss the 'rituals' they have seen their older siblings and other Y6s would have had to mark the transition to secondary school.

Parents should be reassured that the school has had the usual professional conversations with Wadebridge Comprehensive, pupil profiles and teacher assessments shared together with information about friendship groups.

Wadebridge has informed us that they are working hard on planning a virtual transition experience. We are hoping for further information in the coming weeks.

Also being considered is how might manage our usual transition times for the children in the other year groups. Again, we are reliant on further guidelines from the Department of Education and are unable to make firm plans until then. Thank you for your patience.

Reporting to Parents

Schools have a statutory responsibility to report to parents as set out by the DfE. Due to the current situation, the Government has recently revised its guidance to schools and there will now be significant changes this year in that schools will not be required to report specifically on attainment. This is because the statutory tests for Years 2 and 6 did not take place. This means that schools have no formal assessment data validated against national standards.

Because the children in other year groups only completed three half-terms of learning, it is impossible for staff to comment on whether children have achieved expected standards for their age. They will not have been taught the full curriculum and, as for all schools across the country, children will not have had the opportunity to achieve measurable evidence against the end of year standards. This will be a major consideration when children return to school.

However, we have prepared reports focusing on your child's effort and attitude and celebrating their achievements. These will be posted out in July.

Free School Meals

If you have been in receipt of free school meal vouchers and your child has now returned to school, you will no longer receive them as your child will be receiving their meal in school.

Children of keyworkers who attend only half of the week or equivalent, will still be entitled to some vouchers. Please ensure you book your keyworker child-care slots with care as your vouchers will be calculated from this and we cannot alter them if the children do not then attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Kate Whitford
Head of School



Victorian
Games -
learning to
play
Hopscotch.

