



# Portesham C of E VA Primary School

3rd September 2020

Dear Children, Parents and Carers

## **WELCOME BACK!**

On behalf of the Governing Board, we should like to thank you for your patience and understanding during the 'lockdown' period from March to the school holidays. It has been a stressful time for everyone. Even now, we are living in uncertain times, with absolutely no guarantee that further disruption will not take place. Be assured, however, that the school staff are looking forward to starting the new academic year with all our pupils present. Everyone is committed to getting on with the vital job of providing a first class education for the pupils.

The Governors are immensely proud of the staff. During lockdown, the school was open for our vulnerable and key worker children. It is a fact that we were one school that went the extra mile in support of this cohort. The Governors have had numerous online meetings during lockdown, and the overwhelming impression we have gained, is that the staff are a committed and dedicated group of professionals who have missed the children immensely. The leadership of the school during this difficult period has been outstanding, and we are grateful to have Mrs Prior and her Deputy, Mrs Brignell at the helm.

Home school packs were diligently prepared and sent home regularly. However, there is no substitute for face to face teaching and staff are excited about meeting the children again. No doubt, the children are themselves looking forward to seeing their class friends again. They are probably a little nervous which is understandable, but once they get into the swing of things, the nerves will disappear.

There are challenges ahead, but we begin the new academic year with a sense of optimism. We have wonderful children and supportive parents, an outstanding staff team, and an excellent bunch of governors. All we need now is an extended period free from the worries of Covid 19. If we all play our part, and it is important that we all do so. Clearly, there are guidelines that we need to follow to ensure a safe and healthy environment for staff and children, and these were detailed in Mrs Prior's letter issued before the summer holiday

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Chair of Governors

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