

St. Andrew's C of E Primary School

Sand Street,
Soham,
Cambridgeshire,
CB7 5AA



Monday 4th May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers,

It has been six weeks now since schools were officially closed by the government for the majority of our children. We must continue to remember that in staying at home, we are minimising the risk of infection within our community.

Like most of the population, I currently watch the news avidly each day and hope and pray for positive signs that the country is eventually emerging from the very worst of this awful pandemic. To anyone that has suffered a loss of a family member or a close friend recently please accept my sincere and heart-felt condolences. If we can help in any way, please contact us. Ultimately, the most important thing for us all is the wellbeing of our pupils, their families, our staff and our wider community.

In addition, of course, I pay close attention to the Government's position on when it will be safe for the reopening of schools to begin and how we will make the necessary changes to ensure our pupils get the best possible educational experience, albeit in a slightly different way perhaps to what we've all been used to.

Despite what many of you may have read in the newspapers yesterday, no return to school dates or plans have yet been given to the Local Education Authority's Service Director, nor DEMAT's Chief Executive Officer. The DfE have assured all Local Authorities that they will be informed as soon as is possible. With this in mind, I would urge caution when reading the media. Prime Minister, Boris Johnson announced last week that he hopes to make the Government's plans for a phased school re-opening a little clearer for us all this week. This will be welcome news for many and I will write to you all again once this has happened.

In the meantime, I would like to reassure the St. Andrew's community that we are planning for all eventualities. We are working hard to ensure that the physical and mental safety of our pupils, their families and our staff remain at the very forefront of everything we do.

A key to this is our efforts to roll out a learning platform where pupils can enjoy greater interaction with staff securely. Although not ready yet, we are nearing completion and, as always, I will endeavor to keep you abreast of developments and how this will help your child's learning at home.

We have done a great deal in a short space of time and I hope you have seen the ongoing adjustments we make in light of the Parents' Survey published two weeks ago. I understand a number of Zoom meetings have taken place in the last week and timetabling resources provided have helped scaffold learning in-line with your own household circumstances. Mr Lebbon's Facebook Quiz was an enormous hit once again too!

This is not to suggest everything is perfect. I understand there have been some difficulties with regards planned activities in Maths. I must stress, the school's Facebook Group is not the forum to voice frustrations. Instead, can I ask that you email your child's class teacher for clarification and support as I know they are more than happy to help. As mentioned before, we are working on a platform to make this line of communication between home and school easier for all stakeholders. Thank you for patience!

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Stay safe,

Mr. M Harrison
Headteacher

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