



Aberford Church of England Primary School

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Headteacher - Nicola Crossley



# NEWSLETTER

## Message from Mrs Crossley

### **Welcome back!**

It has been wonderful to see every one of our children back in school this week and to finally meet all our children! I have seen so many smiles and all our staff have commented on how nice it is to see the children rekindle friendships and click back into school routines (with one or two changes for safety reasons, of course) easily. It has been lovely to hear all the noise in the dinner hall as children chat over their lunch. We had forgotten what a full school sounds like!

### **Getting back to normal**

We are all striving to make school life as normal as possible and as close to the usual routines that the children and staff are used to in order to foster a feeling of 'moving forward' rather than 'stuck in limbo', as I think many of us felt during lockdown and the partial opening. With this in mind, Collective Worship in the hall will resume next week, just with bubbles on a rota basis, rather than the whole school together for now.

We also welcome back Michaela, our sports coach from Castleford Tigers, to support our PE lessons as visitors are now allowed in schools, as long as their planned activities can follow our risk assessment by sticking to measures such as not crossing bubbles and following enhanced hygiene, etc. This week Michaela has been able to work with each class for a shorter session and was particularly impressed with our new starters in reception! Their motor skills and catching skills are very impressive for children of their age so a big well done and thank you to parents and carers at home who have been helping them to build these skills!

### **Dropping off and picking up**

These have gone amazingly well and we have managed to keep within our timescales each day. Whilst we have become more efficient as the week has progressed, to keep everyone socially distanced it seems that we really do need the full 3:00 - 3:15 and 3:15 to 3:30 slots to get everyone out safely. Coming in on a morning is much swifter and staff all agree that parents of all children are welcome to drop them at any time between 8:40 and 9:00, as the line round the one way system keeps flowing better this way. Children won't be marked as late unless they arrive after 9:10 during this time of staggered starts.

### **Parents' Evening**

Following government guidance we will not be able to hold our usual Autumn Parents' Consultation evening in school as we cannot ensure appropriate social distancing in such a small building. We will arrange telephone consultations later in the half term and will send more information on this soon.

## Thank you!

Whilst parents are still not able to access the school grounds, I'm sure the children have told you all about how much nicer our outdoors environment is looking after the summer. Some of our parents have worked tirelessly over the break, painting, planting, dismantling, skipping, weeding, cutting, rebuilding, sweeping, mending and sorting (in all weathers!) to make the grounds a bright, vibrant, engaging and welcoming place to be for all our children. We are so grateful to the people who have given up their free time to do this. They have also enlisted the help and support of many local businesses to supply them with tools and materials. This has obviously saved the school a vast amount of money. We are so very grateful and would like to thank all the businesses involved which we have listed below.

- Bark chipping donated free - David Bendelow DB Tree Services.
- Skip provided free - city councillors co-ordinated by Matthew Robinson
- Jimmy Mack from jsmkay for making and donating the new planter boxes at the front of school.
- Tyres for the trim trail and large tyres for extra outdoor seating from Mark Kemp.
- Supplying materials and repairing trim trail free Mr Goddard.
- Lindley & Simpson for a grant to purchase new outdoor picnic benches - being delivered soon
- PTA - cost of materials, extra thanks for support especially in this difficult fundraising climate.
- Barwick garden services - winter flower donation
- Tony Wood of TW services for hedge cutting and remodelling the willow den
- The village, parents and staff for plants, vegetables, seed donations, bunting, for the labour up at school and help coordinating the project.
- Harry and George for the 'congratulations for your first week back to school sweetly cone', supplied by Mr Wilson's Sweets and Treats Garforth. (These have been prepared by the manager of the shop; she is following COVID guidelines and used mask and gloves. The sweets will have all been sat for over 72hrs before being given out to the children).

## Aberford Achievements

Our staff have nominated children who have been superstars this week. It's been a very difficult choice this week as everyone has been fantastic!

<b>Class 1</b> To all of class one for settling into school life at Aberford so well.
<b>James P</b> For having a smile on his face all week. What a super first week in Year 1!
<b>Anna R</b> For a super first week back. You have been so sensible and on task all week.
<b>Isaac R</b> For an amazing first week at Aberford
<b>Jaydan T</b> For a wonderful, positive start to Aberford C of E Primary.
<b>Oliver B</b> For such a positive, mature and enthusiastic start to Year 6.
<b>Logan S</b> For such an impressive, enthusiastic start to Year 5.
<b>Megan N</b> A fantastic start to Year 4.
<b>Rowan W</b> For having an amazing first week at Aberford C of E Primary.
<b>Harrison W</b> For his kind, thoughtful and hardworking attitude this week.

### A message from our PTA

Welcome back to school and a big welcome to the new families joining the Aberford Primary School Community this year.

Firstly we would like to extend a huge thank-you to Laura Slater and Lucy Dickinson who have worked tirelessly over the summer break making improvements to our outside area. It looks fabulous and we have been hearing all week how delighted the children are with it.

Secondly, September is the time when we normally hold our AGM. Unfortunately, with the current situation, it looks like we will have to do this as some sort of online virtual meeting possibly Microsoft teams or Zoom, rather than our usual face to face. We are currently working on finding a suitable date and time and will forward the details of this shortly.

One of the key activities that takes place at the AGM, is the nomination and voting in of the PTA committee for the upcoming year. As was discussed at the last meeting in February, the chair and vice chairs have indicated that they would like to stand down this year due to other commitments, therefore we are also looking for anyone who would like to help take on some of the duties next year. If you have any time spare and think you could help out in any way, please feel free to speak to us in advance of the meeting and we can help advise what the role could entail. If you don't have our contact details, please speak to Sarah in reception who will share our contact details.

Jenny, Rosh and Lisa