



Arnside National Primary School

'Aspire – Believe – Achieve'

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp BA Hons (QTS)

Church Hill
Arnside
Carnforth, Lancs
LA5 0DW

admin@arnside.cumbria.sch.uk
www.arnside.cumbria.sch.uk
Tel/Fax: 01524 761159

22nd June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

We're four weeks into the last half term and the phased return of Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 6 pupils is now complete. One more bubble of Year 6 pupils started this week and we have now used every member of staff, every room, every outdoor space and every set of toilets! However, if guidance changes or restrictions alter, we will make every effort to offer further provision to additional pupils. In the meantime, we will continue to support parents / carers with detailed home learning plans and resources. The engagement from pupils has been excellent and it's great to see work regularly posted back to class teachers to share. Class Dojo provides an excellent platform from which to post pictures and examples of home learning. With home social grouping restrictions easing slightly, parents / carers are taking the opportunity to arrange small amounts of social contact between pupils outside school. If managed correctly, this provides a vital opportunity for children to re-socialise in a safe manner while boosting their confidence and well-being.

Bubbles

Whoever came up with the term bubbles? We have 5 bubbles operating in school, all of which are separated where possible, inside and outside. Even though the maximum number is 15 pupils, this is not possible in certain classrooms due to the restricted space where we are not able to arrange desks appropriately. This is why we are splitting bubbles i.e. Year 6, or restricting places i.e. Nursery / Reception. We will do everything we can to arrange provision but in some cases it may only be possible to offer part-time or placement in another Year group bubble. Also, with staffing constraints, your child may not be with their usual class teacher. Please be understanding – we're trying to provide the most effective, safest options we can using the available resources.

Reports

The Government has recently released guidance about alteration to school reports. For 2020, there is no requirement to report on attendance and assessments will be based on attainment / progress up to the Spring term. We have revised the current format to account for the changes and it will mainly focus on 'general attitude and behaviour'. Parents / carers will be given the opportunity to discuss their child's progress by arranging a phone appointment with the class teacher.

Drop off / pick up

As part of the safety measures in place, please could I remind all parents / carers to ensure their child is closely supervised in the school yard. The aim is to minimise the amount of people in the playground at any one time and ensure a quick, timely pick up / drop off. Each bubble has a staggered start and finish to minimise cross over to help with this. We're making every effort to make school provision as safe as possible and the routines are there for the safety of pupils, staff and families. Thank you for your co-operation and support. With siblings, parents are asked to use the later drop off time and earlier pick up time as this will save any waiting time.



Arnside National School, as an academy, is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales with company number 07840925



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September 2020

At present, there has been no official guidance released about reopening plans for September. We are hoping for a relatively 'normal' start to the year but this will be dependent on updated guidance, COVID-19 statistics, Local Authority advice and DFE approval. We will inform you as soon as information has been released and we have a clear plan in place. A provisional class structure is due to be confirmed before the end of July and school will send out further details in July. Due to the unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation, we are planning to retain our current staffing levels and complete a full review in January 2021.

The situation appears to be improving week by week and there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel. Look after each other, keep smiling where you can, and carry on the fantastic home learning. We're working hard to help pupils and families wherever we can and we appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sharp



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