



Arnside National Primary School

'Aspire – Believe – Achieve'

Headteacher: Mr Nick Sharp BA Hons (QTS)

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Dear Parent / Carer,

The challenges of the current lockdown are immense and pupils / families are under increasing pressure. There is a provisional date of the 8th March for a possible reopening but at present, there is no guidance about which year groups would start back. It would be great to get as many pupils as possible back into school and we will do everything within our powers to ensure a quick and smooth transition. Thankfully, the situation is improving and infections rates are coming down but there is still a way to go before life returns to normal. Contrary to phrases in the media, schools are not closed – we are open to an increasing number of Key Worker and vulnerable children. The previous lockdown was a totally different situation whereby staff worked on a rota system and few pupils accessed the provision. In this lockdown, all the staff are working in school with bubbles of pupils while simultaneously planning, assessing and providing home learning for pupils at home.

As the lockdown continues, we are always looking for ways to alter, adapt and improve our online learning. We have had good feedback from across the school and the detailed, structured plans in place provide a clear framework of activities and lessons for pupils to engage in. The work submitted back into school has been excellent and the level of engagement is very high. The Teams platform in KS2 is allowing class teachers to set, mark and assess individual assignments, ensuring pupils make good progress. The individual accounts allow pupils to contact the class teacher directly for 1:1 help, support and advice, throughout the day. Class Dojo is an infant friendly platform which allows parents to access plans, videos and activities, while being able to directly message class teachers for support and advice, as well as submit pupil work for assessment. The level of engagement is also very high. It's been an excellent start to build upon.

Parents / carers are doing an amazing job. Everyone understands the difficulties involved and there are no 'quick fixes' to make things easier. Many of the staff have children at home and they fully understand the pressures of home schooling – it's not an easy situation for anyone and we're all struggling to keep school, home and our personal well-being in balance.

Our plans in place use a variety of resources and approaches such as WhiteRose maths videos, Oak National Academy lessons (Government backed and recommended for schools to use), pre-recorded teacher videos (explanations, stories, plans etc), teacher planned activities & research topics, virtual registers, well-being surveys, online assessment forms and specialist online sessions. We also try to incorporate additional activities where possible such as 'First Aid' training, The Live Big Bird Watch, PE development and collective worship. Through variety, we can keep the learning interesting and stimulating, encouraging all pupils to engage wherever possible and thrive. KS1 use pre-recorded videos extremely effectively to engage pupils and explain activities / expectations.



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As this initial lockdown period settles and pupils and parents get used to accessing, completing & submitting work, we would like to explore further development. We are currently looking at ways we can incorporate more pre-recorded teacher videos and the potential use of some live activities to supplement the home learning in a structured, meaningful way. As a starting point, we have produced a code of conduct which would underpin any future work. It is important that this is shared with pupils and they understand the guidelines.

This week is Children's Mental Health Week and all the classes will be incorporating lessons, activities and assemblies to raise awareness. Please take some time to look at the assemblies and activities; the theme is 'express yourself'.

Pupils, parents and staff are putting maximum effort into ensuring we all survive lockdown in one piece. Please be patient and remember we are all feeling the same pressures, both professionally and personally.

Look after yourselves and keep up the fantastic work.

Mr Sharp



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