



Maryport Church of England Primary School

'Learn, achieve, shine'

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October 2020

As we reach the end of the first half term post lockdown, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing achievements and resilience of everyone involved with our school community. First of all, thank you to the children for the positive way they have come back to school and got back into their learning so well. Thank you also to parents and families who have supported us with all the new routines, policies and procedures. To ALL the staff in school, whatever role they play, thank you for working so hard to plan, prepare and ensuring that school is running as smoothly as it can be at this time.

Getting back into 'the swing of things' was always going to be a challenge but it is one that the staff and children have risen to. Ensuring the children have been able to re-establish their friendships and have felt secure and settled on their return to school was our key priority this term. We were immensely proud that the work Mrs Bell has been doing to support children was recognised publicly recently – thank you to whomever nominated her for the award. As we move forward into Autumn 2, our focus on addressing any gaps or lost learning will continue especially in phonics, reading and number. Although we will not yet be running any after school clubs, we will be organising some catch up sessions for pupils in Y5&6 on a few afternoons per week 3.15-4pm. Details will be sent to parents of children we feel will benefit from these.

We return to school after the break not knowing what the next half term will bring. The Government has introduced new legislation that requires all schools to have contingency remote learning plans ready for if children are unable to attend school due to covid. There are 3 scenarios we need to plan for –

1. A child is isolating whilst they await test results after displaying symptoms
2. A child is isolating due to testing positive or from being in close contact with someone who has tested positive
3. A class/bubble has needed to close following a positive test result in school.

For scenarios 1 & 2, there will be work available on the website for parents to access to allow learning to continue at home. It is recommended that a minimum of 3 hours per day is completed. Obviously, with both of these scenarios, staff will be continuing to teach classes in school so although we would ask that children's completed work be uploaded to Tapestry or Seesaw, staff will not be able to respond to this immediately.

For scenario 3, where a whole class or bubble are isolating, staff will post work daily via the home school apps and will then be available to give feedback during the school day.

We do ask however that parents do not contact staff via the home school apps or via any other social media platforms after 5pm. Our staff work incredibly hard and need and deserve time with their families in the evenings and at weekends.

NEW STAFF

We have recently welcomed some new staff to school – Mrs Mossom is working to provide extra support in Year 1 and 2 and Mrs Robinson has joined our Y5 team. After the half term break we will also be welcoming Miss Kirkbride who will be job sharing with Mrs Moore and Mrs Brown in Year 1. Ms McNulty will also be joining our midday team.

GOVERNORS

After serving for many years on our Governing Body, Mrs Linda Radcliffe has decided that for personal reasons she needs to step down. Mrs Radcliffe has played an important part in our school, being a regular visitor and supporter. She has worked with the children on prayer spaces, the school council and has led many services for us at St Mary's Church. Everyone at our school wishes Mrs Radcliffe all the best – she will be a big miss on our Governing Body.

Mrs Radcliffe's resignation means we now have 3 vacancies on our Governing Body – 1x parent; 1x co-opted and 1x foundation governor. Co-opted Governors do not have to have a child in school, just a desire to want to be involved in and support the work of the school. Foundation governors are nominated and appointed by the Church. If anyone is interested in any of the vacancies, have a look on the website or please get in touch and we will provide more details.

FUNDRAISING

As you are aware, the majority of our fundraising events have been unable to go ahead this year so far due to Government restrictions. Coffee mornings, bingo nights, discos and ticket sales to shows play a big part in raising valuable funds which we use to provide lots of extras for the children. Thank you to everyone who raised money and donated to the sponsored walk. So far this has raised £671, a good amount, but still short of last year's total when we managed £1300. If you have still not deposited your child's sponsor money, it is still possible to do so via Lunchshop.

On Sunday 25th October, we will be launching a Virtual Christmas Fayre which will run until the start of December. Please look out for, follow and share the Facebook link to visit the stalls and shop local to support small businesses. If you, or someone you know, is interested in hosting a stall, then please get in contact for further details.

When we return after half term, we will be selling entries to our Christmas Draw. Tickets will be £10 which will give you 5 chances of winning a hamper. The draws will take place each Friday between 13th November and 11th December – you've got to be in it to win it!!

LOOKING AHEAD

We hoped you have enjoyed our virtual Harvest worships this week which were shared on Facebook. We will be unable to hold a Nativity or Carol Service in church this year so are hoping to do something similar in the lead up to Christmas. We will also continue to hold Christmas parties (albeit in bubbles) and will also be providing the children with a gift as we usually do. We cannot however run our popular Christmas shop this year.



Finally enjoy the half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school on 2nd November.

