



# Maryport Church of England Primary School

*'Learn, achieve, shine'*

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## October 2020

We are now into week 5 of the new school year and, whilst there have been many challenges to overcome, we are delighted with how well the children have settled back in and adapted to the new routines. The staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that despite the staggered starts, breaks, lunches and finishes along with the extra handwashing/sanitising, lessons are still productive and engaging.

Thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support at this time. From our initial opening plans, some procedures have had to be adapted and we appreciate your patience and understanding with these changes as we strive to ensure that safety is paramount for all.

Current restrictions mean that we cannot hold our traditional parent evening events in the usual way. Instead, in the coming weeks, teachers will make phone contact with all parents for a catch up on how well your child has settled. Should there be any particular issue which requires a more in depth conversation, staff will arrange a mutually convenient time to call back.

### RWI phonics

For those parents who are new to our school, we teach phonics and reading using the Read, Write, Inc programme. Initially, children begin the programme learning the different sounds and after a few weeks, are assessed and then placed into different groups according to the progress they have made so far. Children will bring home a reading book once they reach Red Group. We will be putting a sound chart on Tapestry/Seesaw so that you are aware of what the children are learning. They will sometimes come home wearing a label showing the sound they have learned that day – please ask your child about the sound and practise together.

In KS1 and KS2 the children have been assessed and placed in the relevant progress groups. They will bring home a book given to them by their reading teacher that they have been reading in school for three days. They may also bring home a book bag book that contains the same sounds they have been learning. Please read the books with your child at home and ensure they are in your child's book bag each day so they can be changed at the appropriate time. Just a reminder that the books they bring home might seem "too easy" but in order to understand what they are reading children need to read fluently and accurately. Bringing home a book they are already familiar with allows them to read fluently and "show off" at home at how good they are at reading. This helps them feel like a successful reader and builds confidence.

There is a free website where you can find out further information and watch videos about how RWI works – [www.ruthmiskin.com/parents](http://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents)

**If you have any books at home from before lockdown, please return them asap. Thank you.**

### Hand sanitiser

Children in the juniors were asked to bring in, if they could, their own small sanitisers to be kept on their desks. If you were able to provide this for your child, please ensure that new bottles are sent in when the original is running low.

### Water Bottles

Our water fountains are still not to be used so all children need to bring a drink in with them each day. **Drinks must be water only** and not contain juice. Bottles should come home each day to be cleaned.

### Layer up!!

The government guidance that our risk assessment was based upon stated that doors and windows should remain open to allow rooms to be well ventilated. This was fine when we first returned as the weather was good but as the chilly Autumn days arrive, the classrooms are now feeling colder. We have requested further clarification on this as we move into winter, but at the moment the guidelines still state to keep windows open. We would therefore ask that you 'layer up' your child's clothing to keep them a little warmer in class.

### Tapestry and Seesaw home-school apps

We now have the vast majority of parents signed up to our home school communication apps. These will be used to set weekly homework tasks and if bubbles are closed down due to a positive case of Covid 19 or if local/national lockdown measures are re-introduced, these will be our main way of delivering remote learning. Should anyone still have any issues using the apps, please ring the office and a member of staff will ring you back to talk you through the set up process.

### PE

Having the children come to school in PE kit is working really well and has resulted in less time being lost for changing. We do ask however that if your child does not have a school PE hoody, they wear their school jumper – football tops and other coloured hoodies are not to be worn. Full uniform must be worn on non PE days. Please also note that earrings must be removed for PE and if your child cannot do this independently, then they must be removed before coming to school.

### Lost Property

We are only a few weeks in and already we are starting to accumulate lost property. In order that all items can quickly be reunited with their owner, please make sure clothing, lunchboxes etc are clearly labelled with your child's name.

### Fund raising

During the Autumn term we traditionally hold a number of fund raising events in support of charities (Macmillan coffee morning and North Lakes Foodbank) and our school fund. The money raised for school is used to supplement the cost of any trips out and visitors to enhance the curriculum. This term, and possibly for the rest of the year, we are unable to hold our usual events so will be looking to introduce some different ways of raising funds. Further details will be sent out shortly and your support with this will be much appreciated.

### Harvest

Towards the end of October we would normally be inviting parents and our community friends to church to join us for our Harvest Festival. Current restrictions mean this will not be able to happen this year but each class will be putting together a short harvest video which we will publish on our website and Facebook.

