



Cottesmore St. Mary

Catholic Primary School

THE DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL AND BRIGHTON



Headteacher: Rachel Breen B.A. Hons.

29th May 2020

Letter regarding Years 2 – 5

Dear parents / carers

I hope that you and your families remain well.

A couple of weeks back, the Government announced that they hoped all primary aged children would return to school, at some point, before the end of the summer term. We, like you, have heard little more on this matter regarding specifics and how this would work.

Until schools receive further guidance, regarding suggested constraints linked to Hub size and social distancing, we have no certainty with regards to what will happen with the other years, or when. We appreciate that you, and your child, may feel frustrated and disappointed by this but please rest assured that we are doing our best based on the information that we have been given. We know as much as you at this given time.

We are currently trying to plan for how we might open more widely, once told that it is safe to do so. Schools can currently only envisage being able to do so if we are guided to either drop social distancing rules or able to adapt other guidance. For example, we have been told, by the Government, that we can currently only teach in Hubs no bigger than 15, with no adult cross over. We have also been told that partial opening isn't encouraged eg half a class in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. Unless one of these factors is altered, we struggle to see how wider opening would go ahead. We like you, wait to see what is announced next regarding the constraints that we have been given and the safety linked to them. We will of course be in touch once we know more.

With regards to opening the school in September, we also won't know more until we're guided to do so. Again, in order for us to start to plan accordingly, we have attempted to second guess what constraints the Government may or may not place on schools. However, for now, we must wait like everyone else. As and when it is deemed safe to open more widely, schools will be ready to welcome back the children that we have so greatly missed. We, as ever, plan for every eventuality and have already been thinking about possible catch up sessions once all the children are actually back.

Over the past weeks, we have received many positive emails and kind words, during calls home, regarding home learning support, guidance and communication. They really have been appreciated. That said, as we move into Phase 2 of the Government's reintegration plan, it is important that we review home learning support for children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

With regards to home learning for these years, the bulk will remain as it is currently. Your child's usual class teacher will continue to compile weekly Home Learning Grids along with providing relevant slides to accompany learning on Seesaw. Teachers will continue to include additional activities for children who would benefit from further scaffolded support and offer additional for those who require extra

challenge. Children's existing teachers will call all families next week on Monday and Tuesday in order to check in and offer any learning support.

From Monday 8th June onwards, your child's usual class teacher will be teaching children from either Reception, Year 1 or Year 6. An additional teacher, who is currently unable to work in the school setting or another who has extra capacity, will be allocated to each year group from Years 2 - 5. These teachers will be tasked with the job of overseeing Seesaw posts and will be in touch, via PING and Seesaw, over the coming week in order to introduce themselves. Please get in touch with them if you have any questions or concerns regarding home learning. Whilst these teachers will complete the bulk of learning support, your child's usual class teacher will be in touch, via Seesaw, at least weekly.

A reminder that children are encouraged to continue to post work and learning, via Seesaw, regularly so that they can receive teacher liaison and feedback. The teacher overseeing Seesaw work will address misconceptions (found in work posted), and, where relevant, provide next steps. For example linked to problem solving and reasoning in maths. Additional greater depth work will be offered to those requiring further challenge, based on the work that they have posted.

Guidance remains that teachers are suggested not to provide live online lessons or use portals such as Zoom (one factor is related to the safeguarding of children). However, we are currently exploring providing short, pre-recorded sessions for children in Maths and English. In addition to posting slides to accompany the extra Maths and English activities. Many classes are already using pre-recorded teacher video clips, supported by activities, for eg Guided Reading. These have been used successfully and will be continued. We will be providing home learning packs for those wanting further, daily maths and written work. Please inform your child's class teacher, if this is something that you would like to collect. May I also remind you of BBC Bitesize lessons that offer daily, subject based, full lessons for all subjects <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>. In addition, for younger children, please visit the Ruth Miskin daily phonic lessons, as per previous letters. Don't forget that there is also a vast range of material on the year group pages of the school website.

A Teaching Assistant has been allocated to each year group from Years 2 - 5 and they will support teachers by making calls home. These calls are designed as a check in, for both you and your child, whilst also offering opportunities to answer any questions that you might have with regards to school life or specific learning. These will happen every two to three weeks. That said, please get in touch sooner, via email, should you need.

These changes are designed to further help home schooling rather than add additional burden. We hope that these activity packs and videos help the children to work with increased independence. As ever, there is no pressure from us, we will support the children, wherever they are academically, when they return. The most important thing is that they are happy and secure. Please just do what you can. If you need help with technology at home, please also get in touch. Please remember that you can always contact us at any time. Your feedback is valued and appreciated as we continue to strive to try to do the best we can in order to cater for everyone's needs.

We think of you regularly and are here to help in any way we can. Please send my hellos to your child at home. We hope to see them in school as and when we're told it's safe to do so. Take care and hopefully see you soon. Rachel Breen

