



The Federation of The Downs & Northbourne Church of England Primary Schools



*Chair of Governors: Dr A Eyden
Vice Chair of Governors: Rev D Ridley*

***“if you have faith as small as a mustard seed...nothing will be impossible.”
(Matthew: 17 v20)***

Thursday 16th April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you have all had a restful Easter and that you and your families are all keeping safe and well. The school community has been in our thoughts over the last few weeks and we are all looking forward to a time, when we are able to all be back together at Northbourne once again.

What has been happening at Northbourne over the last few weeks?

Since we closed our doors on Friday 20th March, Northbourne has continued to operate for children of Key Workers. This provision carried on throughout the Easter holiday to allow those Northbourne parents who are working on the front line, to carry on with their important role. Alongside this Key Worker provision, Mr Chidwick has been coordinating a thorough deep-clean of the school to ensure that all of the classrooms and office spaces are as germ-free as possible, ready for when we re-open our doors again – whenever that may be?

All the Northbourne staff are currently working on a rota. The teachers and TAs have been assigned a specific day of the week, in order for them to care for the Key Worker children and keep the site running. They have also taken up very important jobs such as looking after the chickens and making sure Forest School is maintained and ready for use.

Term 5 – Home Learning including new paper packs

We are now moving into the start of Term 5. At this point in the year, our thoughts would usually be turned to Y2 and Y6 SATs however, in these unprecedented times these national tests are obviously cancelled for this year. Therefore our focus continues to be providing our families with guidance, resources and ideas for home learning activities.

As you know, the school website has multiple links for suggested home learning resources as well as many weeks' worth of year group specific home learning packs. However, we are very keen to promote wider learning opportunities that do not involve your child staring at a computer screen. We have been thrilled to hear about the new skills some of our children have been learning during the lock-down period, such as baking, painting and decorating, gardening, jet-washing and car cleaning.



We understand that many of our pupils and parents prefer to have paper copies of home learning resources. Therefore, the teachers and TAs are putting together new packs for home learning for your children. These will hopefully be ready later next week. We will message you, to let you know when they are ready for collection from the school. **Please do not come up to the school until we let you know these packs are ready.**

We appreciate that the last home learning packs included a great deal of SATs practise, especially for our Year 2 and Year 6 pupils. These new packs will contain a broader range of materials for your children to work with at home.

Weekly Newsletter from your child's teacher

The class teachers have been posting a weekly letter to their pupils on Purple Mash. We understand that not everyone has been accessing Purple Mash and therefore, may have missed these letters. From this week onwards, the weekly letters from the teachers will be emailed out to everybody as well as being delivered via Purple Mash. That way, everyone will be able to read the weekly communication from their child's teacher.

The future...

At this point in time your guess is as good as mine as to when and how schools will reopen. We have received no information at all regarding the end of school closures. We will continue to monitor the news and government updates as I am sure all of you will. Until then, we will continue to be in touch with you and will let you know about the home learning packs over the coming days.

Please continue to take care and look after yourselves.

Mr Reynolds

