



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)

The Downs CEP School

Owen Square, Walmer
Kent CT14 7TL
Tel: 01304 372486 Fax: 01304 380471
Website: www.downs.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms T Leighton
Deputy Headteacher: Ms N Luxford
SENCO: Mrs S Mitchell
Safeguarding Lead: Mr M Turner

Northbourne CEP School

Northbourne, Deal
Kent CT14 OLP
Tel: 01304 611376 Fax: 01304 621938
Website: www.northbourne-cep.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Reynolds
SENCO: Mrs K Morrison
Safeguarding Lead: Mr M Turner

Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We hope you are all keeping safe and well? It is the 1st of May and hopefully the sunny weather is returning for the weekend to bring some cheer to us all during lockdown.

6 Weeks of Lockdown and School Closure – We are thinking of you all!

Unbelievably, it is now 6 weeks since we closed the school on Fri 20th March. The weeks seem to be merging into each other as we progress through this very strange time. And whilst we are now told that we are beginning to get past the peak of the infection, we are all still awaiting guidance and clarity on when things may return to some version of normality. It continues to be a challenging time for us all.

This past week I have been delighted to receive some amazing communications from pupils and their families. I have had the pleasure of opening cards from Northbourne children that have detailed all that they have been up to during lockdown. I have also enjoyed watching a wonderful video featuring a number of Key Stage 1 pupils that some of our parents kindly shared. We continue to receive phone calls from friends and family, just calling for a chat and to ask how all the staff are. It is reassuring and comforting to know that throughout this whole period, we as a community continue to look out for each other. This is exactly the kind of caring value that we strive to instil in all our pupils and staff.

I have been particularly thinking of all of our parents and friends who are self-employed, or have been furloughed, or have had zero-hour contracts terminated. This is a truly challenging time for our economy and it is having a very real effect on people that we know and care about. Whilst the future is certainly unknown for many people, we must make sure that we, as a school community, play our part in supporting everybody, in whichever way we can.

For others, the challenges of the past 6 weeks have been to balance working from home alongside childcare and home learning. This presents family challenges that require a change in how the household operates and a great deal of patience and teamwork! Throughout all this the well-being and mental health of children and adults must be nurtured and supported. It is this resilience that will be needed as we move forward towards the easing of lockdown and a hopeful re-opening of the school.



Home Learning – Further support

Throughout the past 6 weeks of school closure we have continued to provide you with as many resources as possible to help you support your child's learning at home. As I have said before, we do not expect your home to replicate school. You must do what works for you as a family. If online learning is what you and your child prefer, then Purple Mash, alongside the wealth of online resources that we have promoted via the newsletter and the website, should provide you with plenty to focus on. If you and your child prefer physical, paper learning resources, then the packs that we have provided are hopefully proving helpful. Please do come up to school and collect your child's learning pack if you haven't already done so. There are a few left awaiting collection.

Since I last wrote to you there have been two particularly well publicised resources launched: The BBC Bitesize website and The Oak National Academy website. These have now been operating for a few weeks and I'm sure many of you have been using them. If you haven't yet looked at them then please follow the links below:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.thenational.academy/>

Both of these websites have been added to our Pupil Zone section of the school website, alongside all of the other resources that we have promoted during lockdown. <https://www.northbourne-cep.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Further+Learning+Sites+to+Explore&pid=140>

Easing of lockdown and school potentially re-opening

At the moment we do not have any further information regarding this. Nor am I willing to speculate.

However, the Government have announced that in the coming week they will begin to share the plan for the potential easing of lockdown. We do not yet know if this will include schools re-opening, however, as soon as we are given guidance from the government we will begin to put actions in place and we will communicate with you once we know what the plan is.

Until then, as always, please look after yourselves and stay safe. Do keep in touch and continue to share any photos, videos, letters or work that celebrate our wonderful pupils and their families!

Mr M Reynolds

