



# 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)***

**19<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Dear Parents / Carers,

## **Northbourne slowly returns to life!**

The last three weeks have been wonderful!

It has been such a long time since the corridors and classrooms have filled with noise and laughter and whilst we are sorely missing all of our pupils from Years 2 to 5, it is delightful to have so many other children back in school. Schools are very odd places without children, and Northbourne just isn't the same when it is quiet and empty. So thank you to all of the pupils and parents who have been so supportive over the past three weeks. And if we haven't seen you back at school yet, please know that we are desperately missing you all and we are working very hard to find a way to see you all soon!

## **INSET Days – Fri 26<sup>th</sup> and Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June**

### **“Catch-Up & Recovery Curriculum”**

For those of you, who are back at school, please remember that our two INSET days are coming up on Fri 26<sup>th</sup> and Mon 29<sup>th</sup> June. Whilst you might think it odd that we are still taking our planned INSET days during a period of partial school closure, we as a teaching staff do need time together to begin planning the curriculum for the next academic year.

This year, more than ever, we need to ensure that our plans for September are bespoke and relevant for our Northbourne pupils and families. The idea of a **Recovery Curriculum** is essential for those pupils who will not have stepped foot inside school since March 20<sup>th</sup>. Our aim is to ensure that we deliver a curriculum that not only provides the opportunity for academic progression and **Catch-Up** but also provides *nurture, socialisation, confidence building* and *reassurance* to our pupils who have been away from school for such a long time.

## **School Reports – Term 6**

Despite the long period of lockdown and partial school closure, you will still be receiving a school report for your child at the end of July. Naturally, the reports will be slightly different this year. They will not make any reference to national tests, such as the SATs, or make any comparisons between your child's progress and that of the national average. What they will provide you with is an overview of your child as a learner and a member of Northbourne, where their successes have been this year and how they can improve in the core learning areas of Maths, Literacy, Science and RE.

We hope you will find these reports useful and informative. Even though they can only refer to events leading up to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, when school effectively closed, we still feel it is important to celebrate your child's achievements and provide some guidance on further learning steps.

### **Update on numbers at Northbourne and future plans**

The past week has seen a further increase of Keyworker pupils returning to school, as well as more EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. We currently have 50% of EYFS and Year 6 pupils back in school, however, we now have 100% of Year 1 pupils registered to attend school. This means that the Year 1 cohort are being divided into two smaller bubbles, one of 10 pupils and one of 9 pupils. They will now stay at this number for the rest of Term 6. Our Year 6 bubble is now nearing its capacity of 15 pupils. If we exceed 15 pupils then we will divide the Year 6 pupils into two smaller bubbles.

All 5 classrooms, plus the music room and upstairs meeting room are now in use by our EYFS, Year 1, Year 6 and Keyworker bubbles. This increase in pupil numbers is unfortunately limiting our plans for expanding school to pupils in Years 2 to 5, but we are not giving up! We are working very hard to come up with a plan that will allow us to invite further pupils back in order to provide some face to face time between pupils and teachers before the summer holidays. Moreover, whilst I cannot promise that this will happen, we are determined to find a safe way, if we can.

### **New Catch Up Funding**

I'm sure you have all heard the announcement from the Prime Minister that all schools in England are to benefit from a £1 billion catch up package to directly tackle the impact of lost teaching time on pupils. This one-off grant is being provided to support all pupils who have lost time in education because of the pandemic, regardless of their income or background.

At this early stage of the plan we do not have any clarity on the exact amount that a small school such as Northbourne will receive, however, we obviously welcome any additional funding that can be spent directly on quality teaching time for the pupils.

We will keep you posted on the progress of this funding and how Northbourne will be making use of it in the future.

### **Paper Packs ready for collection**

If your child is still home learning and is not able to return to school at the moment, then please do come and collect their new paper home learning pack. They are available from the school office. These are the third packs that the teachers have put together, to compliment the online learning resources that we provide. We know that lots of parents and pupils prefer to work on paper, rather than on the computer. We hope that you find these extra resources useful.

Mr M Reynolds