



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 25th June

This week at Northbourne....

The weather has been fabulous this week and the pupils have made the most of the outdoor space at school. Our keyworker pupils planned their own Ancient Olympic day for their bubble, whilst our Year 6 pupils tended to the Spiritual Garden. Year 1 created flying dragons after reading Zog and our EYFS pupils became pirates and went on a treasure hunt through the Forest School. Here are some pictures from this week.



Looking ahead to September 2020 – School structure

We are all very hopeful that every pupil will be able to return to school in September. The staff have two INSET days coming up, Fri 26th and Mon 29th, where they will be planning the curriculum for next year. All of our plans are based around every child being back in school.

We are also finalising our school structure for next year. As you know, we are a small school with mixed year group classes. Our current structure requires us to split two year groups in order to manage class sizes and keep them below 30 where we can. For the past 6 years we have split Year 2 and Year 5 each year. This is the structure that works best for our school in both a teaching and a purely logistical way.

We have been looking at alternative structures for next year, in order to maximise academic "catch up" opportunities following lockdown. If we do manage to change our structure, it is likely to be for one year only, and is entirely dependent on the pupil numbers that we have in September. Once we have finalised our structure at our upcoming INSET days, we will let you know.



Update on pupil numbers and "bubbles"

This week we have been operating with two "bubbles" for both our Year 1 and Keyworker pupils. Our Year 6 and EYFS still have one "bubble", although our projected numbers going ahead indicate that we may possibly need to split these two year groups into two "bubbles" over the coming weeks. We will communicate with parents if this does need to happen.

Even though the government have reviewed the 2 metre social distancing advice, they have not (as of time of writing this) changed the guidance of 15 pupils in a "bubble". If we were able to increase "bubble" sizes this would give us greater capacity to invite further year groups back to school. We will have to wait a little longer, until we are told that it is safe to do this.

Next week we have been able to invite our Year 5 pupils back for four days. This has been possible due to next week's pupil numbers on site and the unexpected, but very welcome, availability of a classroom. This is the first time since June 1st that we have had the capacity to do this. We have made the decision to invite Year 5 back based on their imminent transition to Year 6 and all that their final year at Northbourne entails.

If our current pupil numbers hold steady for the coming weeks, and we continue to have the capacity of a spare classroom, then we will of course invite other year groups back for some time in school. This plan is entirely dependent on the numbers of EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils registering to return to school. As you can appreciate, these groups take priority, according to government guidance, and we have to respond to fluctuating numbers each week. As always, we will keep you posted.

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 complement 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.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Reynolds

