



Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Newsletter Number 1 – Summer Term 2020

Dear families,

Welcome to the summer term – whether you are in school or working from home! It has certainly been a very strange time and no one has been left unaffected by this pandemic.

Yesterday we welcomed some more pupils back to school and it was amazing to have the sounds of children again. Singing, chatting, laughing. Just as it should be. It is a slow but steady start to getting things back to where they were. What took us all by surprise was how emotional it was for everyone. Staff, pupils and parents/carers shedding tears of joy and sadness. Happy to have a taste of ‘normality’ but sad that that special family time had ended.

The staff and I know how hard it is to home school (many staff are home schooling their children too) and we want to thank you for all the huge effort you have made, (and continue to make) to do whatever you can with your children during this still very challenging time. .

New Website

The new website was launched last week. It is very smart! It is under the same domain so is easy to find. The majority of the information is there but we have much more information to add on the pages. In particular as we have been redesigning our entire curriculum ready for September, so this section looks a little blank still – but we are almost there and ready to launch our even more exciting curriculum. Please bear with us whilst we work on that. The website can be found at www.pensbyprimaryschool.org

Day 1!

So day 1 was very positive and the children did extremely well. The school they have come back to isn't quite the same and sitting at their own desk, keeping 2 metres apart can be very tricky, especially for younger children. We have tried to make it enjoyable for them and there have been some super moments.

For example, Year 3 went for a walk up to the field as a practice for the daily mile. They were astounded at the different species of flowers. They sat and chatted whilst having their lunch together, and shared all the different recipes they had baked and cooked whilst at home. Miss Grant, Mrs Seal and Mrs Davey talked about feeling nervous about today but they are feeling better and a bit more relieved now. In year 2, the day started with a Joe Wicks workout which was fun. The year 2 staff said there wasn't enough room for them to join in!! Several classes had a picnic lunch outside in the sunshine. The year 6 children chatted away to each other laughing and giggling whilst enjoying their lunch – a magic moment! And in reception I joined up with some daily exercises – we all found the squats a challenge! The children in Nursery and Reception were so grown up and sensible, listening carefully to the staff and trying their best to socially distance – not easy! Year 5 was a class of 2, so they really enjoyed having the staff to themselves and were spotted doing laps of the playground with the staff having a merry time. Year 4 is a full classroom and was

buzzing with excitement all day – Mrs Toal laughing loudest! And finally, year 1 have been busy doing phonics and maths then in the afternoon they listened to the story of Leafy the Pet Leaf before making their own model with leaves and string. Mrs Peter is pictured with the year 1 children (beautifully social distancing!) planning their pet leaves.



Seesaw and Radio 'Shout outs'

The staff want to thank you for keeping in touch via Seesaw and sharing what you have been doing. We are so fortunate to have Seesaw and it has really been worth its weight in gold these past few months. It's also been lovely hearing all of the shout outs to Pensby Primary on radioblogging over the last few weeks and I am filled with pride each time I hear our school name read out, so thank you for all the fantastic work you've all been adding to the site each day. If you have a child in KS2 and haven't tried this fantastic resource yet, take a look at the radioblogging website and see if you could have your work read out live on radioblogging. <https://radioblogging.net/>

End of year reports

The staff are working on end of year reports and paper copies will be sent home to you. They will be based on schooling from September 2019 to the lockdown in March 2020. We hope these short but very personal reports will help you and your family celebrate your child's hard work and achievements in schools before lockdown. Reports will be sent home early in July.

Holiday dates 2020/21

The holiday dates for the academic year 2020 to 2021 will be sent home with this newsletter and put on our website. Obviously we hope that these dates will not be changed in any way...fingers crossed!

Relationships and Sex Education

From September all schools all England will adopt a new curriculum delivering Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). This is mandatory for all schools. The link below takes you to the full documents released by the DFE;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>

The forward from the Secretary of State for Education reads:

Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and living their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way.

This is why we have made Relationships Education compulsory in all primary schools in England and Relationships and Sex Education compulsory in all secondary schools, as well as making Health Education compulsory in all state-funded schools. The key decisions on these subjects have been informed by a thorough engagement process, including a public call for evidence that received over 23,000 responses from parents, young people, schools and experts and a public consultation where over 40,000 people contacted the Department for Education.

The depth and breadth of views is clear, and there are understandable and legitimate areas of contention. Our guiding principles have been that all of the compulsory subject content must be age appropriate and developmentally appropriate. It must be taught sensitively and inclusively, with respect to the backgrounds and beliefs of pupils and parents while always with the aim of providing pupils with the knowledge they need of the law.

We are clear that parents and carers are the prime educators for children on many of these matters. Schools complement and reinforce this role and have told us that they see building on what pupils learn at home as an important part of delivering a good education. We agree with this principle and congratulate the many schools delivering outstanding provision to support the personal development and pastoral needs of their pupils. We are determined that the subjects must be deliverable and give schools flexibility to shape their curriculum according to the needs of their pupils and communities.

In primary schools, we want the subjects to put in place the key building blocks of healthy, respectful relationships, focusing on family and friendships, in all contexts, including online. This will sit alongside the essential understanding of how to be healthy. At secondary, teaching will build on the knowledge acquired at primary and develop further pupils' understanding of health, with an increased focus on risk areas such as drugs and alcohol, as well as introducing knowledge about intimate relationships and sex.

Teaching about mental wellbeing is central to these subjects, especially as a priority for parents is their children's happiness. We know that children and young people are increasingly experiencing challenges, and that young people are at particular risk of feeling lonely. The new subject content will give them the knowledge and capability to take care of themselves and receive support if problems arise.

All of this content should support the wider work of schools in helping to foster pupil wellbeing and develop resilience and character that we know are fundamental to pupils being happy, successful and productive members of society. Central to this is pupils' ability to believe that they can achieve goals, both academic and personal; to stick to tasks that will help them achieve those goals, even when the reward may be distant or uncertain; and to recover from knocks and challenging periods in their lives.

This should be complemented by development of personal attributes including kindness, integrity, generosity, and honesty. We have endeavoured to ensure the content is proportionate and deliverable. Whilst we are not mandating content on financial education or careers, we want to support the high quality teaching of these areas in all schools as part of a comprehensive programme, which complements the national curriculum where appropriate and meets the ambitions of the Careers Strategy. We know that many schools will choose to teach the compulsory content within a wider programme of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education or similar. Schools are encouraged to continue to do so, if this is right for them, and build on established, high quality programmes.

These subjects represent a huge opportunity to help our children and young people develop. The knowledge and attributes gained will support their own, and others', wellbeing and attainment and help young people to become successful and happy adults who make a meaningful contribution to society.

Pensby Primary has adopted the KAPOW scheme of work to deliver RSE. The scheme overview and our RSE policy is also included with this newsletter for your information. Please take some time to read this documentation and feedback to us any comments you have.

Nursery and Reception 2020 starters

At this time of year we usually invite the families of our new Nursery and Reception pupils for September 2020, into school. We cannot do that under the current social distancing requirements. However, the staff have spent some time to make a welcome to Nursery and Reception video to share with families. They will also be offering phone call conversations. We will put the welcome videos on the website as well as soon as we can.

And finally,

Please look out for another Parent Mail communication letter next week, regarding the readmission of more keyworker pupils back to school. This will be the last opportunity for keyworkers to secure their child's place before we move to phase 2 (re admitting year 6 pupils). Under the 2m rule we can fit 12 pupils in each classroom. This is due to their being 3 doorways in each room, all requiring a 2m path/gap to allow room users to pass safely. It may be that once a class is full at 12 pupils, any additional pupils requiring a place will be in a different classroom with other staff. Obviously this is not what we would wish but we have to meet the health and safety requirements as set through the national guidance,

Keep safe, keep well,



Mrs. K Brown
Headteacher