



# Castor Church of England Primary School

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23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it! Back on 7<sup>th</sup> September when we all returned to school and into the 'unknown', the end of the first half-term and the end of October seemed very far away on the horizon. In spite of the very best forecasts and predictions from the range of sources we are all exposed to, it was still very much venturing into the unknown for us all. Now, looking back at the last two months, I personally could not have wished for it to have gone any more smoothly.

It has undoubtedly been a challenge, and we have had to be constantly 'on the ball' with regard to risk assessments, hygiene standards and 'maintaining the bubble', but we could not have asked any more of the children in terms of their behaviour, conduct and resilience, and of parents in terms of their co-operation and support. I would also like to give every member of staff in our school a special mention as well. Yes, it is their job, and everybody in every trade and profession will be working in different ways at the minute. However, the national re-opening of schools at the start of September was such a significant event - filled with uncertainty and not helped by the big build up to it over the summer. Every feeling of unease, anxiety and worry that you felt as a parent in sending your children back to school would also have been felt by our staff – concern and worry for themselves and for their own families at home. This has been the case not only in September, but continued throughout the last two months with the continued progression of the pandemic. However, not once have they let it show to the children. From day one they have shown nothing but professionalism and dedication to their roles, matching this with excitement and enthusiasm for the children and their learning. They really have approached all of this with a "We will find a way" attitude. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for their efforts.

## **Christian Values**

Our Christian value for this term has been 'hope', a value that is portrayed through many verses and parables in the Bible, and also a value central to all faiths. We have used this value throughout the term to reinforce the importance of always hanging on to hope, and that even when it can be difficult to find at times, hope is always there. It has been a common theme of our Collective Worship, and one that the children have been able to relate to well. A standout moment for me this term was a conversation about Collective Worship and hope with a child who was lining up with his uncle at the start of the day. This child compared hope to being like 'the light at the end of the tunnel' – a great analogy. Our Christian value for the next half-term and the lead up to Christmas will be 'Humility'.

## **Anna's Hope Fun Run**

Well done to everybody involved in the Virtual Anna's Hope Fun Run last weekend. An absolutely incredible effort from everyone - from our children and their families through to our school governors – every single photograph has a smile on it. At a time when our appreciation of the outdoors has never been so great, to be able to get out, enjoy the fresh air and raise over £2300 for this wonderful charity is amazing. Well done to all involved, another example of why our school community is so special.



*"We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us"*

### **Glimpses of 'Normal'**

Although at the moment school can not be as we have always known it to be, we have had flashes of 'normal' in school, in a safe and controlled way. We have had Year 2 take part in a King and Queen theme day – they baked some delicious biscuits! A member of the Church Team has led an act of Collective Worship in school each week, we have had parents attending Achievement Assembly, our Year 5 children have been out of school on their Roman Walk around the village and we have had some sports coaches from Arthur Mellows visit to do some distanced coaching. When we return to school we will be returning to our Denarii based reward system, and today is Crazy Hair Day! As much as the children benefit from the familiarity and routine of being back in the classroom, the feeling of everything being normal that these events provide also gives reassurance to the children.

### **Parents' Evenings**

Thank you to you all for your co-operation in attending these meetings through Microsoft Teams. All seemed to go well technology wise, and I'm sure you will have appreciated the opportunity to discuss with your child's class teacher how your child has returned to school. As with the curriculum sessions, a benefit of them being held in this way is that they are more accessible to parents who might not normally be able to attend.

### **Reception start and finish times**

As of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, the start and finish times for our Reception children will be adjusted to make their school day in line with the rest of the school. Their start time will be 8:35am and their finish time will be 3:05pm. Please continue to use the entrance and exit that you have used up to now. Please also be aware that you have year groups arriving and departing either side of your allocated times, so please do not arrive any earlier than these times. Year 6 and Year 2 parents, please be aware that you now have another year group arriving and departing in between your slots, so it is now even more important that you only arrive at and within your time slot.

### **Remembrance Day**

Royal British Legion poppies will be on sale in each of the year group classrooms during the first week back in school after half-term. If your child would like to buy one please can they bring in a small donation, which they can put into the British Legion collection box in their classroom. The poppies will be available for children to purchase up until Friday 6th November. There will be other British Legion items for sale in the classrooms, including snap bands, zip pulls, reflectors and wrist bands (these are priced from 50p to £1.50).

On Wednesday 11th November we would like to encourage all children who are members of the Scouting and Guiding movements (Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, etc) to wear the top halves of their scouting uniforms to school to mark Remembrance Day. Children should please wear their school uniform trousers or skirts with their scouting tops.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and your child's education. Have a restful and peaceful half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Brompton  
Headteacher