



Newsletter Friday 19th June 2020

From Mr Linsley

School Capacity

School places for attendance before the end of term have now all been allocated, and we have reached capacity. Staff have been busy this week exploring the options we have to allow more children to return to school whilst implementing the guidance received from the Department for Education and the Local Authority. We have been able to offer some time in school between now and the summer holidays to all children, with places offered on a priority basis. I appreciate that it is disappointing for parents who have not been offered full time places and would like their children to return to school full time before the summer, however this is the best solution available to us at the moment. We are in regular contact with the local authority and will contact parents should the situation change. Please get in touch with the office or contact your child's teacher if you require help or support in any way. We will always try our best to help and support you.

For pupils who are not at school, staff will be getting in touch to see if there is anything they specifically need. I have asked staff to make an initial phone call but also talked about them maximising the use of video calling while our own 'TEAMS' system is being set up by the LA.

Black Lives Matter

This week has seen a continuation of the protest marches and demonstrations raising awareness of the terrible incident that happened in America a few weeks ago. It is important that we reflect on the challenges people of different faiths, cultures and colour face in today's society. This can be a sensitive subject, but staff have thought carefully about how we can ensure our curriculum and teaching in school not only reflects issues in the wider world but also celebrates the school population we are incredibly proud of at North and South Cowton.

Premier Passions

It has been great to welcome back premier league football this week although very strange to watch it in empty stadiums. Similarly to school a stadium only truly comes alive when it is full with the passion of fans and supporters or the enthusiasm of learners in the case of school. As football starts in most leagues - other than in the lower leagues where Sunderland currently reside! - it has allowed me to reflect on how important Sport and PE are in improving physical and mental fitness. To that extent we have invested in a new PE resource to support staff in delivering these important features of the curriculum. Hopefully pupils will enjoy and benefit from a range of new activities and approaches. I was impressed to see Mrs Hughes hosting an impromptu socially distanced disco in class 2 yesterday lunchtime; we have some talented stars! It also made me think that I need to prepare my dancing feet for when we are 'properly' allowed out again! Any dance stars out there who would like to share their moves please send them into school as I'd love to see them!

Posters

Some of the junior children have designed posters to encourage all dog owners in the village to act responsibly and clean up after their dogs. The posters will be displayed in prominent places around the village. Please do look out for them.

Joe Wicks

Each morning the juniors have been taking part in the Joe Wicks exercise programme. This is a great, all round exercise session and can be done at home too – it can be found on You Tube.

Trophies

Please could all trophies that were awarded last year be returned to school before the end of term. Thank you.

Musical instruments

Similarly could all musical instruments be returned to school no later than Monday 6th July.

School ties

The current year 2 children will need a school tie, for when they join the junior class in September. These are available now from the school office, priced at £4.00.

Menu

Please find attached the menu for the rest of the summer term. Choices should be handed in on the next day your child is in school.

Decorated stones

As you have probably seen, there are some beautiful painted stones around the war memorial on the green. If any of the children would like to decorate one too, that would be great and would act as a reminder of our time in lockdown.

Library

A reminder that there are second-hand books for sale, at the village hall. There are some great titles, both for adults and children, which can be bought for a small donation. The library is out every weekday from 11am – 3pm.

Children working at home

A **MASSIVE** shout out to all our children who are working from home. We have had lots of fantastic work emailed in which shows just how hard the children are working. If anybody is baking as part of their work, please remember that we do like the odd sweet treat to keep us going (thank you to the Lamb household) and we are at school every day!! Keep doing what you are doing and we look forward to seeing you all soon.