

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2020

WWW.VANEROADPRIMARY.CO.UK

Message from Mr. Pavey

I have loved having all the children back in school for the past two days. It is wonderful to have the beating heart (the children) of the school back at their desks and enjoying their learning. On Thursday morning I arrived at school at the same time as one of our pupils who was coming to Breakfast club and the beaming smile on their face left me overwhelmed with emotion.

I would like to thank all the parents/carers who, let's be honest, have been extremely brave placing your trust in us and returning your most precious children to our care. As a parent myself, I know that although my logical head tells me that school is the best place for them, it doesn't stop me worrying. I hope that you have had the same experience that I have had with my girls coming back from school buzzing about being back with their friends; they fell to sleep quickly and they are far happier than they have been in months. That's not to say they will be skipping off to school on Monday morning but it is a huge relief to have them back in education.

I also want to take a moment to thank the cleaning staff for all their efforts over the summer holidays, getting the school completely cleaned for the return of the children. Their work often goes unnoticed but at this time, they are more important than ever. I also know how challenging it has been for the staff to return and they have overcome many hurdles to make sure that the children have returned to a near normal school experience.

Our system for getting children into and out of school worked much better this morning with everyone knowing where they had to go. It has helped having the junior children with a slightly staggered start and going to their year group zone. We have tweaked the collection arrangements for the Year 3 and 4 children which will hopefully be better this evening.

At the very beginning of lockdown, children had a home-learning book. You will recall that I promised those children that returned the book to school would be entered into a prize draw for book tokens. I would also like to look at the things that the children have done in them so if these books could be returned by Friday next week, I will enjoy looking through them and I will enter every child who returns a book into a prize draw.

I am hoping that we will be able to put on our usual 'Curriculum Meeting' that we hold at the beginning of each term soon but clearly this can't be done in school. I will let you know further details in due course once we have worked out how we can get information about your child's new class routines etc. to you safely.

We would also usually be sending out a list of important school event dates today. Currently it is unclear what events will be able to take place and which won't. Again, once we have solved all these dilemmas, we will let you have this information.

Communication with school is slightly more difficult at the moment however we still really want to have a close relationship with you as parents/carers to ensure that we always do our best for the children. We will keep the vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net email address going if you would like to contact a member of the Senior Leadership team; you can contact your child's class teacher on the Dojo and you can always phone the school. Please remember that you will not be able to speak face to face with your child's class teacher for the foreseeable future, this does not mean that they are not happy to communicate with you.

In other news, we welcome three new members of staff to our school this week. Miss Thompson and Mr Watson, who were apprentices at the school last year, have now been successful in becoming Teaching Assistants and Mrs Pyle was appointed as the new Cleaning Supervisor. We hope that they will all be very happy at our school. We also have a vacancy for a cleaner at the school. If you are interested please click on this link:

<https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/job/Part-Time-Cleaner/199720> - closing date is Monday!

The price of school meals has unfortunately increased to £2.10 per day (£10.50 per week). Please can you keep up to date with paying for these using ParentPay.

Finally, I just want to say how fabulous it is to be writing a near normal newsletter. I am filled with great optimism being able to plan future events and talk about all children being in school. Thank you for all your support getting us to this important milestone.