

VANE ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2020

WWW.VANEROADPRIMARY.CO.UK

Message from Mr. Pavey

Well, we haven't had a full week of all children in school for a long time and it has been an absolute delight. I have been amazed about how well the children have adapted to the 'new normal' and I would like to thank parents/carers and staff for all their efforts in making sure this has been possible. I am aware that we are all still very concerned about the news of other schools having to close 'Bubbles' due to outbreaks and whilst we are doing everything we can to make sure that we don't have to, I do think it is inevitable.

One of the key things that we are doing to make sure that we can sustain the children's education should a Bubble need to close, is keeping our on-line learning going on by completing homework this way. Yesterday, Year 1, 2 & 3 children will have had homework posted through Clasdojo, unfortunately, there is a technical issue with Teams so the Year 3, 4 & 6 children will have a week off but will get theirs next week. If you have any issues, please contact your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Next week, your child will receive their usual weekly homework via this system. It will be posted on a Thursday and it should be completed by Tuesday morning. In the event of a Bubble temporary closure, this will be how the teacher will continue to provide education for your children.

Next week, is Road Safety Week. The Local Police Force will be carrying out their usual road safety campaign focusing on parking and driving outside schools. Officers will be outside schools in Newton Aycliffe before and after school. Unfortunately, we have had a number of complaints from local residents regarding parents/carers parking across their drive ways. Please park considerately.

Following parent/carer feedback received through recent surveys, I have decided to streamline how we communicate with parents/carers. Lots of you expressed a concern that there were too many places to look for communication from school. We are moving all our messages across to Clasdojo over the next couple of weeks and we will stop sending messages to the App. All parents/carers should have a Clasdojo account for each child which can be set up at www.classdojo.com. It is really easy to use, is private between school and individual children. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are having problems accessing Clasdojo. There is the facility to message your child's class teacher but please note that they will only answer messages between 8am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday and please allow 48 hours for a response. Emails can still be sent to the Senior Leadership team at vaneroadparents@durhamlearning.net

Parents/Carers of children in Class 6 should already have received a letter informing them that Mrs Costello has been successful in her application to be Head Teacher of Cockfield Primary School. We are all delighted for her but will miss her. She starts her new post in January and the process to find her replacement has already started.

COVID Information

The system for getting the children into school in the morning and home again in the evening is working really well for the most part. I want to thank all those parents/carers who are helping the school by following our advice. There are a small number of parents/carers who we still need to get the message clearly to because their behaviour is putting us all at risk. Firstly, please can you all arrive at the right time. There are a number to Year 3/4 parents/carers who arrive well before 9:05am and congregate around the Junior yard gate. They do not socially distance and crowd the entrance making it very difficult for the Year 1 children and their parent/carers to access the school. We also have a few children being brought onto the school yard by more than one adult, please remember that only one adult per family should come on to school grounds. To help keep the numbers of people to a minimum on the school yard, please can Y3 parents/carers leave their child at the Junior Yard gates, they have settled in really well and I am sure they can walk by themselves to the line in the morning. Only Junior children who have younger siblings should be arriving at school before 9:05am. The Junior lines will go in at 9:10am but we will keep the gate open until 9:15am to help distancing.

So as of Monday, can all parents/carers remember:

- To arrive at the right time and not congregate outside school;
- To only have one adult accompany children onto the school grounds;
- All Junior, including Y3 children to be left at the Junior yard gates;
- All parents/carers who can, wear a face mask when on school grounds;
- Leave the school grounds and local area promptly.
- At the end of the day, please can those parents/carers with younger children waiting for Year 3 & 4 children to come out of school wait together on the yard and not run around the yard or play on the equipment.

I am sure that the vast majority of parents/carers will have similar concerns and understand my need to reiterate these messages. I hope that the small minority that I am referring to will understand that I am doing this for everyone's safety and to do our best to avoid the need to close Bubbles. I do not want to embarrass parents/carers by having to remind them next week. We are all in this together and trying our best to limited the spread of COVID19 but we must all do our bit.

Dates

Jeans For Genes – Friday 18th September 2020

Children can come to school dressed in jeans but must wear uniform top half and school shoes.

MacMillan Coffee Morning- Friday 25th September 2020

Children to have juice and biscuit in classrooms. Donations made via parent pay.

Black History Month – Thursday 1st October.

Children in Need – Friday 13th November 2020

Children to come to school in non-uniform or fancy dress. Donations made via parent pay.