

CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

Phone: 01302 884465 Fax: 01302 890623

E-mail: enquiries@cpa.dsat.education

Headteacher: Mrs A. Navas Chair of Governors: Mr C. Mitchell



Friday 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been challenging for us all, particularly with the information in the news at the moment so we hope that you are keeping safe and well.

News on school reopening more widely

You may have seen on Wednesday that the Prime Minister has announced that schools will continue to operate in the current format until **at least 8th March**. We expect that there will be another announcement confirming what the wider opening plan is after half term, but until at least 8th March we will continue to support all our children and families as we are doing and continue our current lessons, both in school and remotely. As soon as we know any information and future plans for schools we will let you know.

We understand that it can be really challenging for parents and children, when children are unable to be in school, learning face to face and seeing their friends, as well as the challenges that home learning brings for working parents. Many of our school staff are parents too and understand what you are going through! I therefore just wanted to say a really big **thank you and well done** to all our parents and carers and to recognise your efforts in terms of the care and support that you are giving to our children in such challenging circumstances.

Support for well-being

We know that some children (and parents/ carers) may be finding this lockdown more challenging than the first one. We hope that by delivering daily live lessons and maintaining a structure and timetable this is helping your child to feel at least some connection with their friends, whether they are learning at home or at school. If your child is experiencing some stress and anxiety and is finding it hard to relax, there are a number of good Apps for mindfulness and calming, which are suitable for children, which you may find useful. They are:

Dreamy Kid
Head Space
Chill Panda
Mindful Powers
Calm

It may be a question of exploring what they have to offer and finding one that your child prefers. However, please get in touch with us if you are worried about your child and we will do our best to offer additional support and suggestions and to put you in touch with other organisations who may also be able to help.

Weekly feedback from teachers

We understand that for those parents whose children are learning from home, you may appreciate some feedback on how your child is doing. From next week we are going to trial a weekly feedback email to you, sent from the class teacher giving some feedback about how your child has got on over the previous week. This will be a simple email, giving some positive feedback about what they have done well, and an 'even better if' pointer of advice for you to encourage your child to focus on. In no way is this feedback a judgement on parents and carers who we know are working so hard at



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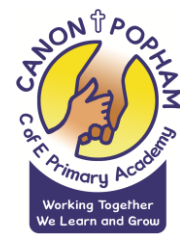
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home. It is simply our response as a school to some feedback we have received from some parents, asking for some feedback on their child's learning.

The emails will be sent on Tuesdays and we hope that you will find them useful.

We will only be sending out this feedback to those parents whose children are not accessing provision and are learning at home. Parents whose children are in school should not expect an email, as they are in school and these children are getting feedback in the usual ways within school.

We know that many of you are sending emails to your child's class teacher and we hope that you find their responses useful. This is designed to be an additional layer of communication and feedback.

Please avoid sending emails to the class email address on Tuesdays, as they are unlikely to be answered because staff will be using this time to send out feedback emails to parents. Please feel welcome to ring school if you need to.

How are we doing?

Next week we will be sending out a questionnaire for you to complete to get your views about how we are doing as a school at the current time, what your feedback is on our learning offer at the moment and how we might improve. Please bear in mind that all of us in school are also coping with the challenges of this time, and delivering teaching in ways that we never expected to be. It is impossible for us to deliver a bespoke programme that suits every one of our individual families exactly, but we are trying our very best and want to do our best for our children. Therefore, we would ask that your comments are constructive in order to help us to improve.

Seesaw

In our next learning pack, that will come out in 2 weeks' time you will find a letter about setting up the Seesaw App and a personal QR code for your child. It is a very simple process to set up the App and we will also be providing a simple video, which Mr Pitchfork is currently making, to explain what you will need to do. We would ask that you set this up over half term.

This will then make it possible for you to send back work more regularly, as the class teacher asks for it so that they can see how your child is getting on with specific tasks, and where they may need to adapt their lesson content to address any misconceptions. Your child's work will not be able to be seen by any other children in the class but will be much easier and simpler to share learning in this way.

Staff COVID-19 testing

You will be pleased to know that the staff in school have started their regular, twice weekly testing this week. This is designed to identify any asymptomatic staff in school so that appropriate action can be taken to keep everyone safe. The tests have gone really well and staff welcome the reassurance that we hope it will bring to both those in school and parents/ carers.

Twitter comes to Canon Popham

We are currently setting up a Canon Popham Twitter account so that we can share positive news stories about school etc. with you. It will be launched by half term and we will let you know when it goes 'live'. Please look out for it.

Taking the pressure off in the last week of this half term.



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We have 2 weeks to go until February half term. We break up on Friday 12th February. We know that it has been tough at times for everyone and we want to be able to add a little light and fun to the learning in that last week.

We are working on some plans for some more relaxed sessions and to finish off the half term and say thank you for all your efforts, the last day of the half term will be a fun day for children both in school and at home. We will let you know the details closer to the time, but hope this will be something to look forward to.

As always, please know that we are here to help so we hope you feel welcome to contact us by phone or e mail if you need any support.

Once again, thank you for all that you are doing- together we can get through this!

Mrs Navas



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