

# CANON POPHAM CofE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Church Balk, Edenthorpe, Doncaster. DN3 2PP

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E-mail: enquiries@cpa.dsat.education

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



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Good news on Attendance**

I'd like to start today's letter with some good news! Thanks to all your efforts our attendance figure so far this year is even better than the same point last year!

Our school average attendance since September has been 97.1% and there have been some days this week when it has been as high as 99.4%! This is great news because it suggests that children are happy and settled back into school and are all here and learning.

Thank you so much for your support with this and with keeping the children attending regularly. We fully understand that in these uncertain times, there may be points where children need to be off school, if they or a family member in their household is awaiting test results and self-isolating but it is great to know that, at the moment our school picture is looking really positive.

You might be interested to know that if we were to have any **individual** children who need to self-isolate for a longer period of time (up to 14 days) due to the COVID restrictions we have a package of learning support for these children in place. In these circumstances, their own class teacher will email a package of work linked to their curriculum but in addition, DSAT now have a 'virtual' school for all the children who are self-isolating across our DSAT trust. This means that every child who is absent for an extended period of time, **longer than 3 days** with a COVID related health situation can be referred to take part in 'live' zoom teaching every day, of English and Maths. This takes place with other children who are in the same phase as them across the other schools in our trust. The feedback that the Trust have received so far has been great! So, whilst ideally we would like every child to be in school, happily learning with their own teacher and friends, if they did have to self-isolate for an extended period of time, we have a package of learning that includes daily live teaching!

We hope that we will not need to close any bubbles in the future, but should this be the case, children will be accessing live zoom teaching every day, with their own teacher, in the same way that Year 6 pupils had to do a few weeks ago.

## **Catching Up with Learning**

Over the last few weeks the staff in every class bubble have been carefully settling the children back to learning and working with them to recall previous learning and to catch up as a whole class on some of the teaching from last year that was missed during the lock down period. They have also been finding out where there are gaps in individual children's learning that may need additional teaching support. We are proposing that after half term, we will be running some additional Booster learning sessions after school for different aspects of English and Maths, for each year group.

Because the sessions will be for specific curriculum aspects, your child will only be invited to attend if they need to work on the aspect being covered in the sessions running at that time. The sessions will be led by the staff in your child's bubble, so that we maintain the safety of our provision.

Most sessions will run once or twice per week, for a period of approximately 6 weeks. After that, the session focus will change. Therefore, it may be that while your child is not invited to one block of Booster sessions, they will be invited to another- it is about tailoring the sessions to individual needs.

If your child is invited to attend some booster sessions, you will receive this information via Arbor. The letters about these will be coming out before half term, ready for a planned start when we



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return from the half term break. You will be asked to consent to your child attending the sessions if at all possible, and we would hope that as many children as possible **will** attend if they are invited. The intention is that they are helpful in supporting your children with additional targeted learning that they need so that we can quickly minimise the impact of the lockdown break on children's long term learning.

## Harvest festival

Next week is our school Harvest week. The children will all be having a classroom based lesson thinking about Harvest and all of our whole school assemblies will also have the theme of Harvest and thankfulness next week. If you would like to make a monetary donation which we will then collect together and send through to Doncaster Food Bank you can do this through ParentPay. We cannot accept individual food items as we have in previous years. Thank you

## Parent Governor

As you will be aware from one of our September letters, Mr Milnes term of office as a parent governor was due to come to an end in October. Mr Milnes was willing to continue in this role, at which he has substantial experience over a number of years. We have not had any further interest expressed by any parent who felt they could also offer similar expertise and experience. Therefore Mr Milnes' application to continue as parent governor has been forwarded to DSAT trustees.

## We are here to help

We are very much aware that in the difficult climate we are all facing at the moment, this puts extra pressure on families. If you are worried about your child in any way, academically, socially or emotionally or if you need help as a family with anything from parenting to money worries and benefits, please feel welcome to speak to us in confidence. We will always help if we can and if not, we can usually find the right people who can offer support. We're all in this together!

As always, many thanks for your support and patience. It is always good to receive feedback from you. If there is anything about our procedures that you think we could improve (within the guidelines that we have to operate under at the moment) please feel very welcome to speak to me at the start or the end of the day, or to phone or email in. We really want to do our best to get things right for you and your children. In addition, if there is anything that you think is going really well, positive feedback is also welcome!

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Navas



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