



Cogenhoe
Primary School

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INSPIRE. ASPIRE. ACHIEVE

Newsletter 22

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<http://cogenhoe.northants.sch.uk/>

Dear Parents and Carers,

I really hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well? First of all, thank you so much for all of your ongoing support and positive messages we have had, praising our hard work and dedication during these difficult times. They are really appreciated and are shared with staff. Thank you for working with us and suggesting how we might change or improve certain things. We are all working in very unusual and demanding circumstances, where it is even more important that we work together to support your child.

I am very proud of the staff at our school. We have successfully kept the school open as much as we were possibly able to over the past six weeks for those allowed to come in, which has given us many logistic and health and safety issues at times. We have also been providing educational activities and pastoral support for our children that are not in school. Alongside this, we have kept in regular contact with our students and parents/carers, whilst trying not to overburden you with too much information. As an employer, we have a duty of care to our staff and their well-being and I believe that we have managed this effectively too, bringing in as few staff as possible into school, working around those at home with other commitments and those unfortunately with medical conditions. Our staff are the biggest and best asset that the school has and it is important that we protect them too, so that they can eventually return and continue to provide our students with the education they deserve.

I am really missing all of the children at school and seeing parents at drop off and pick up time – a ‘normal’ school day seems like such a long time ago now! I am ever hopeful that we will be able to welcome the children back into school in the not too distant future, although I still do not have any further information, other than following the news like yourselves. The recent press conferences have not really ‘shed any light’ on the situation either, where school openings are concerned. There are rumours circulating that the most likely return will be early June and I am assuming that this will be phased, ensuring social distancing measures where possible. I am personally very much hoping that once the return date is announced, the logistics of that phasing will be made clear to schools. If it is not, as a school, we will manage the return in a manner that will maximise the safety of pupils, parents and staff. As soon as I hear any news or have an indication of the return plans, I promise to let you all know straight away.

If your children are struggling with the work set or you feel that they are slipping behind, please be assured that, as a staff team, we are already planning how we can maximise time on our return to fill any gaps and catch up on work missed. The academic progress of the children is ultimately our responsibility; setting work and tasks remotely is no substitute for face to face, direct teaching. You, however, are teaching the children a whole host of skills that we would not be able to practise at school and which are ultimately still contributing to your child’s education. The gardening, crafting, baking, puzzling, bike riding and playing are, at this time, as important as the reading writing and maths. Hang on to that when the home teaching is difficult! We are so very proud of each and every one of you and all that you are doing every day!

Equally important is your child’s emotional wellbeing. I have attached some fantastic resources from the Mindmap Charity and a copy of the Casey the Caterpillar stories. Feel free to use them if you wish. We will certainly be using the stories and ‘feelings flowers’ on our return. If you are concerned about your child’s anxiety levels, please get in touch and we can signpost you to resources or Mrs McCarlie who will do her very best to help.

Zoom Meetings

