



Coleham Primary School

For every child, an Excellent Education

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Headteacher: Ms C Jones

Deputy Headteacher: Mr T Larkham

3rd September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a relaxing summer break. It has been wonderful to welcome back *all* of our children today after such a challenging summer term. Firstly, a big thank you for all of the generous gifts and cards that so many of you gave to me and staff members at the end of last term; they really were very much appreciated by us all.

We are really thrilled to welcome our new Reception children and any other new children who have joined Coleham School today and all of their parents/carers. Our new Reception children will be having their induction over the next week to help them to settle into school life and we are all really looking forward to getting to know them as they become part of our special school community.

The start of the new academic year is always a little nerve-wracking for staff and children, and it is even harder this year for many of our children after such a long period out of school. I am sure that many of you, like me, have been reminding your children that the thought of returning to school is always much worse than the actual return itself and I feel confident that once all children are back for a few days, they will quickly settle and benefit hugely by being back in a routine with their friends again. As always, we are here to help and support any children who may feel particularly anxious and we will build plenty of PSHE/circle time into the curriculum to allow *all* children to express their thoughts and feelings and we will contact any parents/carers if we have any particular concerns to discuss.

I also know that some of you may be feeling anxious about sending your children back to school. This is completely understandable. Hopefully, you have had chance to read my earlier letter regarding the safety measures that we are putting in place to keep everyone in school as safe as possible. A further letter will follow later today regarding dropping off/picking up arrangements as we make tweaks to our existing system having observed how it worked this morning. Alongside all of our safety measures, our aim is to make school as normal as possible so that our children continue to flourish and make progress academically and socially. Certain things, like assemblies in the hall, won't be possible for the time-being, however, alternatives (via Zoom and Teams) will occur regularly so that our children feel part of our wonderful school community. A full curriculum will also run in all classes, allowing our children to develop in all areas and make up for time lost last term.

If you would like to talk to us over the coming year about anything, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. You are also very welcome to contact the relevant members of the Senior Leadership Team if you have any further concerns, as we are keen to address any issues quickly and efficiently. Mr Larkham and I are out on the playground most mornings, so please feel free to catch us for a quick chat. We

are aiming to keep the number of visitors in school as low as possible and so would ask you to please phone or email the relevant staff member if you have a query. If you do need to speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the day out on the playground, please make sure that you adhere to social distancing rules. If you need to access our school office, masks must be worn at all times to keep everyone safe. Please see the attached contact details sheet for key members of staff within school.

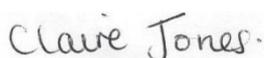
We are really keen to maintain the lines of communication between us and all of our parents/carers, but we recognise that this may be quite challenging in the current circumstances and will require some creative thinking! During the Autumn Term, we usually invite you all into school for an open classrooms event to meet your child's new class teacher to discuss what your child will be learning about this academic year. We had also planned to host a Curriculum Evening on 12th October to provide advice to you all regarding how best to support your children's learning at home. These events will still go ahead virtually via Zoom and using our Seesaw app. We will send further details to you nearer to the time. We are also planning to continue using our Seesaw app to share work with you and show you what your children have been doing at school, because it is so important that we maintain the home/school link.

In the event of a local lockdown, Seesaw will be used again to set work for the children and to maintain contact and Zoom will also be used for teachers to interact with their children each day. Whilst we all really hope that a local lockdown does not occur, it is prudent to plan for such an eventuality and so over the summer, we have developed our Home Learning Policy, using the government guidance and the feedback provided to us by yourselves last term. Please look out for a letter from Mr Larkham regarding this. It is vitally important that all children and parents are set up on Seesaw in preparation and that we know of any families who do not have access to necessary technology so that we can be ready to lend devices if needed.

Also, please check our school website regularly, which lists all key events within school, has copies of all letters that we send out and has a news section, in which we upload various photographs of school events for you to view. We will also continue to produce our weekly bulletin sheets, the first of which will be coming out this Friday and will include important dates and other key information.

I will look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the term at the school gates.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Jones
Headteacher