

Newsletter Term 5 – Week 5

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the last newsletter for this term and we hope to reintroduce our fortnightly schools newsletters in term 6. This is providing that everything is still going to plan with schools returning in East Sussex on June 1st 2020. It has been an unusual term and we would like to thank you and congratulate you in all you have done for your child/ren. We have been able to keep in touch via emails, messaging, videos, Zoom and all sorts of ways that we haven't utilised before. I hope that we can all use the skills we have developed in this time to make life work better for us in the future.

Thank you to everyone who has returned their form or sent an email to let us know if your child/ren will be returning to school in June, July, September or are undecided. We have had the majority respond but if you haven't done this please can you let us know asap. Many thanks.

We know that it is a difficult decision for families and appreciate that this time has led us all to rethink some parts of our lives. Staff are excited about seeing the children again and have started to be able to go into school to prepare classrooms.

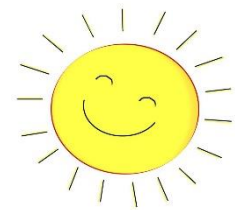
We will write to those families returning over half term to clarify details and guidance. We needed to know our numbers first to help us in our planning.

Football News

We are delighted to hear that Firle CofE Primary School came 2nd on the points leader board for the Virtual Sussex School Games Football challenges this week. Well done to those children that took part in this. Please let me know who you are as it was a lovely surprise for us to hear this news!

Reminder

For those children going to the Hub next week and those returning to school on June 1st please can you make sure they have Sun hats and have applied sunscreen before coming in, thank you.



Staffing

Mrs Budd has been on a career break this year and Ms Ricca has been teaching the Underwater Class at Laughton. Some of you will remember that Mrs Ricca was going to leave Firle at the end of last year due to our reduction in classes but due to this opportunity, she was able to stay in the Federation.

Mrs Budd has decided to resign from her post at Laughton CP and will be splitting her time between running her family business and taking up a part-time teaching post at Cradle Hill from September 2020. We are delighted for her and would like to thank her for all she has achieved in her time at Laughton. She has been a key figure in the school for a long time and supported us in establishing our infant welly walks, health profile and expansion of the EYFS



area. She has bags of energy and has supported many children and student teachers to go on and have successful careers. She has a great sense of humour and will be missed. We wish her continued success in her new ventures.

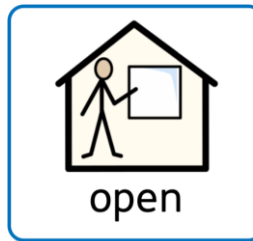
We are thrilled that we get to keep Ms Ricca in our Federation and she will continue to lead EYFS and RE over the 2 schools. It also means we get to keep our wonderful Miss Partono at Firle.

Transition to school



In embarking on opening up our schools again it is important that we reflect on what we have achieved in the lockdown period as well as acknowledge what we have found difficult.

We will be focusing on building relationships and community as our schools slowly return. We will have to adapt procedures and our environment to reduce risks to children and staff and will try to communicate this as best we can via email.



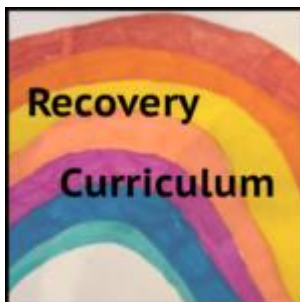
Mrs Filtness has sourced some useful resources for communicating the transition to school with children and a social story, please see attached.

Priory School have also sent out a link from another organisation that has support for transition for year 6

<https://www.hachetteschools.co.uk/landing-page/hachette-schools/be-awesome-go-big-in-association-with-pixl/>

We will be contacting our new reception for September 2021 parents and carers once we are back in school and hope to phase their start in September, as it will be unlikely that they can have transition sessions before this in school. We are planning to create a virtual tour of our schools to support any new child joining us. We will confirm transition arrangements in early June.

Curriculum



Staff have been working on a new curriculum for term 6 to support learning at home and school. We have decided to have the same theme across both schools and in all classes which will be '**Deep in the 100 Acre Wood**', there may be variations on the title of the topic in some classes but the theme will be the same.

It lends itself to lots of philosophy and building of relationships and community whilst also giving scope for PSHE, English, DT, art, history, local geography and forest habitats, food and health and much more. Some subjects will continue to be taught discretely but

our main aim is to provide a recovery curriculum that meets these aims (taken from research by Barry Carpenter)-

Lever 1: Relationships – we can't expect our students to return joyfully, and many of the relationships that were thriving, may need to be invested in and restored. We need to plan for this to happen, not assume that it will.

Lever 2: Community – we must recognise that curriculum will have been based in the community for a long period of time. We need to listen to what has happened in this time,

understand the needs of our community and engage them in the transitioning of learning back into school.

Lever 3: Transparent Curriculum – all of our students will feel like they have lost time in learning and we must show them how we are addressing these gaps, consulting and co-constructing with our students to heal this sense of loss.

Lever 4: Metacognition – in different environments, students will have been learning in different ways. It is vital that we make the skills for learning in a school environment explicit to our students to reskill and rebuild their confidence as learners.

Lever 5: Space – to be, to rediscover self, and to find their voice on learning in this issue. It is only natural that we all work at an incredible pace to make sure this group of learners are not disadvantaged against their peers, providing opportunity and exploration alongside the intensity of our expectations.

Some classes may have some elements of their previous topic to finish but everyone will have this as their theme.

We hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing or hearing from you in term 6

Take care all of you.

Mrs Rachel West and Mrs Vicki Brown

