



26th June 2020

From Mrs Eley...

I can't believe how quickly the weeks are flying by and it is time for me to write to you all again!

You will have been hearing lots of information in the media and at the government briefings about schools being allowed to open to more year groups in addition to the year groups prioritised by the government, if they have the capacity and can keep the children and staff safe. We looked very carefully at our numbers, staff and room arrangements and unfortunately we were not able to invite Y2, 3, 4 and 5 children into school before the end of the summer term unless their parents are Keyworkers.

In light of this, we have been working on the staffing for next year to make sure the children are with adults that they know or were expecting to be moving up to. I would therefore like to share this with you so that it may help your children to feel happy about returning in September. We are very lucky being a small village primary school as the children know all of the staff and vice versa already.

Class	Staff
Wagtails (Reception)	Miss Watkins and Mrs Ward
Robins (Year 1 and 2)	Mrs Gugleta, Mrs Howes and Mrs Smith
Owls (Year 3 and 4)	Mrs Meredith, Miss Ingram (Wednesday) and Mrs Moger
Kingfishers (Y5 and 6)	Mrs Cotton, Mrs Mander and Ms Ryan

We are also working on a plan for the last week of term so that we can invite children who have not been back to school (and those that will be completely new to our school) to come to school, if only for a few hours to reconnect with their peers and teachers or meet their new teachers but I am sure you understand this will take a lot of organising. We will need the whole school community's co-operation to make that work – more details to follow. This will still be optional and there will be no judgement if you choose not to send your child until September.

We still do not know exactly what school will look like in September. Our hope is that we will virtually be back to normal but the government have yet to confirm that – as soon as we know we will let you know. As you know there is quite a lot of speculation in the media about the way that children are going to 'catch up'. We are still waiting for some clarity on the 'catch up' programme that was mentioned last week however Head teachers have been asked to ensure there is a programme ready when children return to school. We have already talked about the approach we will take to support children when they return to school. It's very simple, we'll welcome them back in, make sure they feel safe and happy, support them to socialise with their classmates, listen to their worries and then find out where they are academically. We'll then work as hard as we can in partnership with you to help them with their learning and teach them the things they don't know.

Good news – all of the children at Austrey have had the opportunity to take part in virtual sports competitions in school or at home over the past few weeks and we have scored a hat trick by winning the tennis, dance and basketball! Each time we won £75 for the school to spend on sports equipment.

I would also like to announce that we now have a twitter account. If you search for @AustreyCE you will find us. Our latest post shows photos of the new playground marking that were completed on Wednesday. A huge thanks to FACES for giving us the money for these.

Year 6 transition – Polesworth School are running a virtual induction day on Wednesday 8th July which we are planning to run in school so that the Y6 children have this experience together as a cohort. If you would prefer for your child to do this with you at home please send a message via seesaw and we can send you the link. Mrs Mander and Y6 will also produce a video version of a school Leavers' Service which will be uploaded onto Seesaw or given to the children on a memory stick depending on the size of the file when it is finished. We have sent our contribution to the Cathedral office for the Diocese Leavers Service so the children will be able to watch this when it is ready.

We are also planning a fun day for Y6 on Thursday 9th July where they will have the opportunity to take part in fun activities such as zorbing, fencing, archery and nerf guns. I will then treat them to a McDonalds lunch before the fun continues in the afternoon!

To the children...

I hope those of you who have not been in school (or are not coming back next week) have had the chance to speak to your teachers as I asked them all to phone you again this week. If they left a message, I'm sure they will try again soon.

We are trying really hard to make sure everybody who wants to, can come into school during the last week of term to see their friends and meet their teachers for next year. I know it won't be like normal as you usually move up to your new class with your new teacher for a 'move-up' session when the Y6 visit their High school but we are doing the best that we can. When you come back in September, all of your old teachers will be there so you will be able to say hello on the playground or when you are moving around school.

Your grown-ups will let you know when or if you can come. If you don't come back to school before September, there is nothing to worry about. We're not sure yet whether we will be completely back to normal or still have to have some things in place to keep us safe but whatever happens it's going to be lovely to see you!

My challenge this week is linked to reading and popular picture books that you may enjoy now or have read in the past.

