

Newburgh CE School

Newsletter

12/06/20



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are still waiting for confirmation from the Director of Public Health for Lancashire that re-opening schools is safe. We expect an update on Monday with regards to a potential partial re-opening on Monday 22nd June and I will communicate that decision with you all as soon as I am able.

I think it now a certainty that children in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5 will not be back in school this academic year as we would have wished and as a staff we are trying to plan for what September may bring us without really knowing yet what we are planning for. We are aware that all of our children have undergone a time of stress, frustration and helplessness through the course of these traumatic weeks and our first priority is going to be their wellbeing and mental health. We are also aware that having lost half a year of schooling none of our children will really be ready to move up to their next year group. I have therefore started to plan with staff a new start to our academic year for September 2020 in which we will start school with a "Wellbeing Week". During that week we will also manage their transition into their new year groups so they can get to know their new teachers. This plan will extend to those children due to start Reception in September. I will communicate these plans more fully with you all as soon as I am able. To the families of those children due to start Nursery this term and next I would also say we will be in touch with you soon with regards to inducting children into Nursery with a view to them starting with us as soon as we open again.

During lockdown we have been maintaining contact with families though a variety of media—emails, phone calls, letters etc. If your details have changed since last September and you haven't already let us know please email bursar@newburgh.lancs.sch.uk to update us or we may not be able to get in touch with you.

We continue to improve the school ready for children returning. You may have seen our new bunting at the front of school but inside we have also been painting walls and organising to ensure a safe return for all. We have also been gardening and improving our wildlife area. The following photos are a teaser for what awaits families when we are all back together.

As ever, thank you for your continued support,

Mrs R Fowler
Head teacher

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Thought for the Week

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Let me ask you a question that was asked of me this week. If you had known at the start of 2020 what this year would bring would you have done anything differently? My immediate thought was I wish that my fringe had been cut shorter as I am struggling to see out from under it at the moment! However, when I considered it a little more carefully I think that I would have made more effort to see people and spend more time in their company. Lockdown has given me a far greater appreciation of company and the family and friends that God has given me. The first person I wanted to see when lockdown eased was my Mum and we spent a great two and a half hours chatting away, sat in her garden when we did finally meet up.

It's good news that we now have a little more freedom to go out and meet others even though the rules are a little confusing and the virus is still present. As we move nearer to normality let's not forget the lessons that we have learnt through the events of this year and the opportunity we have had to re-evaluate who and what is really important to us. It may be the time to consider whether we actually want to go back to exactly how things were before the pandemic.

I, like everyone else, have spent a lot more time at home in lockdown and one of the things I have been able to do at a more regular time and for longer, has been to spend time with God in prayer or attend (virtually!) one of the various online services that have taken place. This is one thing that I intend to continue doing when the country starts to move again.

In Ecclesiastes chapter 3 verse 1 we read "Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses." We are assured that God has been with us through this pandemic. As we move out of it let's ask him to show us what is important in our lives and to guide us in where he wants our focus to be in the future.

Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you hear me when I pray.

Thank you that you know every decision I need to make and every challenge I face.

Help me to understand what is important in life and to make the right choices.

Help me to listen to your direction and be obedient to how you want me to live and spend my time

Thank you that you are in control and that nothing happens without your knowledge

Amen

Suzanne Finch—Local Missional Leader