CUMBERLAND INFANT SCHOOL

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 Headteacher: Mrs Rebecca Herbert BEd

Monday 29th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This spring term has certainly been like no other! It seems so long ago that Cumberland was open for just one day on Monday 4th January then quickly closed for just critical worker children. Remote learning for so many children at home feels in the distance past and I am hoping it stays there! The reopening of schools on Monday 8th March also seems a while ago now. The last four weeks have flown by but has been full of so many emotions and feelings. The joy in the first week of the children playing and learning with their friends in their classes and seeing their teachers. The perseverance required by all to relearn and reteach our learning values particularly ‘Independence’ and ‘Thinking’. The stamina to just keep going for five days, with so many children and adults in one building and so much learning to do! Although it has only been four weeks, all staff and children are ready for a rest and chance to enjoy the beginning of lockdown restrictions being lifted. I know I am looking forward to some time in my garden with a few friends or family.

**Easter holidays catch up**

For the last four weeks, the staff have been assessing the children’s learning alongside ensuring their happiness and well-being. We believe that over Easter if you can keep reading with your child daily it will continue to help your child’s progress greatly. Teachers will be updating Bugs Club and checking your child has enough books in their current book band. Your child will also bring home a few extra books to read in their book bag. Remember there is an extra special certificate if your child reads one hundred books this year. Please fill in the coloured card every time you hear your child read.

The teachers will be updating learning on Education City to reinforce spelling and maths. Your child may also bring home some spellings (Look, Cover, Write, Check sheets) maths challenges and number facts to learn. The idea is any learning over Easter is as frequent as possible but only for ten/fifteen minutes, this will really help embed their learning and assist their catch up. With the weather improving and restrictions lifting slightly, it is so important you have time with family and friends to enjoy gardens and being outdoors.

I have also included the Maths Bingo Challenge which has been sent home previously. The children who have already completed it loved picking a prize from the basket and their maths learning is celebrated on our Bingo Challenge display.

**Topic Home learning**

We have decided that all topic home learning sheets will **not** be sent home from now on as a paper copy. Instead, it will be posted on Tapestry at the beginning of the topic and on the website under the year groups tab. You can return your child’s topic home learning via Tapestry, email or send it into school.

**Comic Relief and Down Syndrome Awareness**

On Friday 19th March the school was full of colour and excitement and there was a feeling of some sort of normal. The children loved sharing their jokes with the staff and friends. The odd socks and even odd shoes as part of Down syndrome awareness week added to the bright clashing clothes worn by the Cumberland Community. Thank you so much for all your contributions and we managed to raise £272.50 for Comic Relief and Portsmouth Down Syndrome society.

**COVID-19**

Last week saw the completion of nearly all staff being vaccinated at Cumberland. We have to thank Goldchem Chemist and Eastney Health Centre for the majority of our staff vaccinations. DFE are recommending all staff continue to take their Lateral Flow tests over the Easter Holidays to reduce the risk.

If your child/children develops a temperature, persistent cough or a loss of taste or smell please book a Coronavirus PCR test. If your child is tested on Friday 2nd April, Saturday 3rd April or Sunday 4th April please could you inform me by email immediately you receive the result. This will enable the school to track and trace and I will be able to inform any staff or children who will need to self-isolate.

Until the end of the Spring Term and during the Summer Term, please can you work in partnership with us to reduce the risk by not gathering together outside the school building with children who are in different bubbles. We really want the children to be learning in school and are working tirelessly to reduce the risk.

Before and after school, the trim trail should not be used as we are restricting its use to one year group per week at the moment.

**Return of books and equipment**

We are becoming low on our book banded books. Before we break up on Thursday, please can you look at home for any book band reading books and return them via your child’s book bag. At the same time please return any paints, headphones, whiteboards, pens or any other equipment you borrowed from school during remote learning.

**Return of IPad and Laptops**

During remote learning, we were able to loan out some IPads and laptops to assist children completing their remote learning. Please return these to school via the school office by Thursday 1st April 2021.

**After School Club**

It has been lovely to see so many children attending Breakfast and After School Club. From Monday 19th April we will be running After School Club until 5.45 again. Thank you for your understanding and I know this will assist several parents with their working hours.

**Website**

As a school we are continuing to develop and update our website on a regular basis. Over the last four weeks I have recorded an assembly based on our learning values which the children watch and discuss in school on a Tuesday. These are then added to the Website on the ‘Home Page’ under Mrs Herbert’s Assemblies, which is under the ‘About Us’ tab.

**INSET days**

We have three INSET days remaining this year on Friday 28th May, Thursday 22nd July and Friday 23rd July 2021.

**Easter activities**

This week, each year group will be learning about Easter and using their imagination and creative skills in Easter based activities. On Thursday 1st April, the last day of school, there will be a class Easter Egg Hunt where one child will be the winner if they find the lucky number card. On Thursday, your child can wear Easter headwear if they wish.

We cannot thank you enough for all your support over this very different term. Please do not hesitate to contact me on head@cumberland.portsmouth.sch.uk

All the Cumberland staff wish you an enjoyable and relaxing Easter holiday and we look forward to the children returning on Monday 19th April.

Becky Herbert