



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Dipton

North Road, Flint Hill, Dipton, Stanley, Co. Durham, DH9 9BB. Tel: 01207570316

E-mail: diptonstpatricks@durhamlearning.net Website: <http://www.dipton.durham.sch.uk/>

Headteacher: Mrs J Burgess

We follow in Christ's footsteps

Tuesday 29th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Moving towards the end of term

Although we still have a few, extremely busy, weeks before the end of term, I want to extend my sincere thanks for the way you continue to respond, so supportively, to the current, ever-changing situation still evident in school and across our wider community.

We remain constantly vigilant regarding the welfare of our pupils, families and staff. Our goal is to reach the end of this academic year without further disruption. This means we must, wherever possible, limit any activity that poses any additional risks. Sometimes, this has meant making changes with very short notice.

Whilst appreciating the all-round, valiant effort with home-schooling, we all know it was not, indeed could not, be the same, and we want to keep each child in school learning. This is our priority. Staff have put in a great deal of effort to make the curriculum exciting and interesting. Both 'Sports Week' and 'Science Week' have been nothing short of brilliant and attention is now fixed on 'Art Week'. I am sure your children have shared their experiences and stories! It has been a delight for me to see and hear how much they have learned.

In previous years, we would have invited you into school for end of year celebration assemblies so you could hear this for yourselves. Unfortunately, that is not possible at the moment. Each year group will, therefore, share a Powerpoint/presentation online and there will be an end of term newsletter so you can get a flavour of all the great activities which have been explored and enjoyed across school.

We are also gearing up for the much-anticipated release of the Year 6 production - Wow! What A Year! – always a joy to watch. This will be screened across classrooms and Y6 living rooms, near you, very soon. Get the popcorn ready!

Year 6 will also be leading a socially distanced, outdoor, whole-school liturgy for staff and schoolmates towards the end of term. Again, with much disappointment, we have had to take the decision to make this a school only event. We hope to be able to share a recorded version of this with Y6 parents.

After a number of postponements, our First Holy Communion will take place on Saturday. This will operate with severely reduced numbers within diocesan health and safety guidelines and approved risk assessments. I am sure this will still be a memorable occasion. As we will not be able to have our usual celebration breakfast event, Y5 will have their own party next week involving the whole class.

With all restrictions still in place, there is, of course, no guarantees that further bubble closures will not occur. With each day that passes, and with more vaccines administered, we stay hopeful that each class will be able to carry on unaffected.

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Moving forward, we ask that you:

- Continue to let us know immediately if your child is poorly, or there is a confirmed case of Coronavirus in your family;
- Take your child for a PCR test if asked to do so;
- Continue to wear your masks when dropping and collecting your child/ren;
- Keep your distance from others in the yard and continue to keep children close to you when waiting for siblings (no child should be running/playing/ riding on a scooter whilst waiting in the yard/near church at drop-off or collection).
- Continue to be patient and supportive of the decisions we feel it is necessary to take.

Reports

Individual school reports will be emailed on Friday 2nd July via Teachers2 Parents. In advance of this, you will receive a text message with an eight-character password to allow you to open the report document. The email and text will be sent to your usual contact details. Please contact school if you have recently changed phone number or email address and not yet updated school.

The report should be sufficient to provide a comprehensive review of your child's progress over the year. If, after reading the report, you would like a Teams appointment with the class teacher, please contact the school office by Tuesday 6th July.

School Lunches and Breakfast Club

The new Taylor Shaw menu, which was introduced on 7th June, will continue on our return in September. The price of a two-course school meal will increase to £2.15 across Durham County Council. The price is charged via ParentPay for children who pay for meals in Y3 – Y6.

We had been able to freeze the cost of Breakfast Club over a number of years due to support from Magic Breakfast. As this subsidy is no longer available, we will increase the cost to £2.50, per child, per day, from the start of the new term.

Please email diptonstpatricks@durhamlearning.net by Friday 9th July if you wish to book pupils in for Breakfast Club for the first two weeks in September.

In the interim, do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Thank you, again! It continues to be a privilege to lead this wonderful school family.

Take care!

Kind regards

Mrs Burgess

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