



The Alton School Newsletter

Friday 15th May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Friends and Colleagues,

Coronavirus

Thank you all for continuing to be a wonderful community during this tricky time. We hope you carry on staying safe, happy and healthy.

As I'm sure you are aware the Government have announced their intention for schools to reopen for children in Y6, Y1, Reception and Nursery from 1st June at the earliest.

They have published some initial guidance about how this might work on Monday and then again yesterday about how they consider that we could do this safely. We are considering how we will respond to this both at school and Trust level.

Although we have not yet developed a detailed plan I want to take the opportunity to stress that any plan we do make will take full account of the first of the Q1E Trust aims - that all children and adults are safe. **The safety of children and families, as well as that of our staff, will be the first consideration in any plans we make and they will remain our priority as we start to put our plans in to action.** I would also like to make clear that the government guidance states that **any return to school will not be a return to school as usual.** The government has stated that schools will have to put in place a whole series of measures which will absolutely change the nature of what we offer. **One of these is the requirement for children to work in groups of no more than 15.** This will

inevitably mean that **children will not be back in their normal class groupings and we may have to consider children being taught by staff other than their normal class teacher.** The implications of the guidance are that most of what we can offer will be hugely affected.

We are currently collecting as much information as possible about your intentions and views. We are aware that you will all have a variety of views about the timing and the wisdom of the Government's decision to begin reopening schools but we would find it really helpful if you could discuss this with us when we call or text you. We know that what you are thinking and feeling may change in the light of new information and any changes to your circumstances and we are aware that decisions will be dependent both on the nature of the provision that we can offer and how the situation has altered between now and any potential opening.

Q1E Website – Home Learning

It's wonderful to receive feedback that families are accessing the Q1E website <https://q1e.co.uk/home/> and are enjoying the content that our teachers are posting. English, Maths and Curriculum work now have links to videos that teachers are making, so be sure to click on the name of the day of the week for each subject to access the videos which will guide you through your learning. New work is posted onto the website for the following week on a

Friday so that parents can have a look at the work in advance to prepare for any upcoming activities.

Phone Calls

The teachers will continue to ring the children once weekly on a Tuesday to see how the children are doing and help with any home learning questions. These can be quick 5-minute catch-up calls to check in with the children.

Any questions you have about school that cannot be answered by your class teacher can be directed to the email address: admin@thealton.wandsworth.sch.uk

Seesaw

Seesaw (<https://web.seesaw.me/>) continues to be used across the school for children to share the work they have done from the Q1E site. The feedback we have received about it has been overwhelmingly positive. We are finding that it is helping children to stay motivated to share their learning with their teachers, LSAs and school leaders.

Please see the work that we post on our website and social media platforms.

Rights Respecting

Next week we are focusing on Article 24: You have the right to a clean and safe environment. Of course, it's important to always have a clean and safe environment, but incredibly important during this pandemic, as we want to keep ourselves and others as healthy and safe as possible. Please support us by using the language of rights and responsibilities with your children, asking them what they have been learning about.

Excellent Learners

Our Excellent Learner quality next week is to "ask questions". Asking questions is a means to learning and gaining knowledge so it is important to encourage this skill. There are many ways that we can find out information, through questioning those around us or using books or the internet.

Assemblies:

This week, we posted our virtual celebration assembly on Monday. Class teachers have chosen two children to celebrate, from work they have posted or from conversations on the phone.

<https://www.altonschool.org.uk/news-events/achievement-assembly>.

In this week's assembly the following pupils were awarded certificates:

Nursery: Erkhemseg and Mia

Reception: Rebecca and Nyall

Year 1: Krystel and Olivia

Year 2: Cara-Rae and Max

Year 3: Mahidah and Cameron

Year 4: Taylor and Zainab

Year 5: Aryan and Israa

Year 6: Khaqan and Ruby

Resource Base: James and Maison

Well done to all our excellent learners!

With best wishes,

Ruth Hudson

Headteacher