

Dear families



As we come to the end of this very unusual school term, we are starting to put plans in place for welcoming back all of the children to Whinmoor St Paul's in September.

The return to school in September 2020 will be different to that in previous years and we are spending time planning and preparing to make sure we can effectively meet the needs of all our children. At Whinmoor St Paul's C of E Primary School we believe that every child is a 'Unique Child of God' and as such we have put the child's well-being at the centre of our thinking.

We acknowledge that our children will have all had different experiences during the lockdown phase, however most of us will have experienced a loss of routine, structure, friendship, opportunity and freedom. Some children and parents may understandably feel anxious about returning to school in September. We will be focusing on helping your child adjust to being back in school and helping them to re-engage with their friends and also learning.

With this in mind, we have been planning a **Recovery Curriculum** for the whole school which will initially run for the first part of the autumn term which will allow the school to most effectively support your child's ability to learn. The aim of the Recovery Curriculum is to restore the mental health and rebuild the resilience of our pupils to become learners again. At the same time, we will begin our core lessons of English and Maths. Our curriculum will repeat and reinforce any previous core concepts as appropriate.

As part of the Recovery Curriculum we will aim to:

Recognise the experiences had by all

We will create time to share our experiences of lockdown. Some pupils will be more open to share, whereas for others it will take some time or require anonymity. We will create space within our day to allow for these conversations. It is important to note that although lockdown has caused losses, it will have been a positive experience for some, allowing for more quality family time and child led learning. We will encourage discussions around learning, play, relationships and more.

Restoring trust and relationships with staff

For some children it will take time to build up their trust and restore relationships. Staff will continue to nurture and support through positive words and role modelling the school values. Within the day there will be plenty of opportunity to talk and play together, allowing time for 1-1 conversations. Staffing will be kept as consistent as possible.

Re-establish friendships and social interactions

Pupils will be given plenty of play-time in which they can re-establish their friendships. Daily circle time will allow for thoughtful discussion surrounding the value of friendship. Shared activities, like daily exercise will bring the pupils back together into teams.

Regain structure and routine

The process of returning to a 'normal timetable' will be a phased one. At the beginning, there will be more free-time and child-led learning. There will be elements of the timetable that will be constant each day, like exercise, mindfulness and circle time. Parts of the school day that pupils will be expecting, like English and Maths, will be included in short bursts. The timetable will be re-evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that all pupils within the group are coping with the transition back to school.

Rebuild a sense of community

Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in whole-school projects that promote togetherness. Work produced during lockdown will be collated and displayed in school. Through talk, groups will gain understanding of their peers and support each other.

Regulate their emotions and manage behaviours

PSHE lessons and circle time will focus on Mental Health and Well-being. The Golden Rules will be re-established with the pupils, emphasising the school values that run alongside them. Pupils will be given space to explore their feelings and seek out help to manage them. School needs to be a safe and happy place before learning can begin.

Re-engage them in learning

Once the children feel safe and happy, they can begin to engage with their learning again. To help transition, focussed learning will be kept to short bursts. Well-being activities, mindfulness activities and child-led projects and story based learning will aim to re-engage the pupils with their learning.

Preparation for transition

Transition back to school will be aided through a transition piece of work and communication from staff. Pupils will be given time to adjust to their new routines, spaces and adults.

We feel that following this Recovery Curriculum at the start of the autumn term, will allow our children to adjust to being back in school and we will look forward to welcoming them back. To find out more please refer to information on our school website – Recovery Curriculum.

Thank you.