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**Whole School Together Again**

I just thought I would share with you my thoughts as we enter our first full week at school. It has been an absolute pleasure to have all the children back in school. To see them engaging in lessons discussing reasoning in Maths and working through some of the exciting new class books in English has been lovely. The work that the children are already producing across school shows a real determination to succeed. I believe in this quote below:

"Our job at school is to support you and your children. We will endeavour to instil that anything is possible through the way that we nurture the whole child and that their dreams can come true."

We are extremely proud of our 'firm and sincere conviction' that every pupil can, and will, succeed. I know that we live in an ever-changing society due to COVID 19 but at our school we are committed to creating a safe, enjoyable, stimulating and creative environment for all of our children to flourish in. Our staff, Governors and families work together to strive to ensure that the primary years are a positive, rewarding experience for all of our children and we all learn together in a caring Christian community

**A prayer for the new term**

AS OUR CHILDREN PREPARE TO START A NEW YEAR  
MAY CONFIDENCE BE THEIR FOUNDATION,  
MAY GRACE BE THEIR GUIDE AND  
MAY HOPE BE THEIR COMPASS TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE.  
I PRAY THEY WOULD HAVE EYES TO SEE  
THE NEEDS OF THOSE AROUND THEM  
AND A HEART TO LOVE WELL.  
MAY THEY FACE EACH DAY WITH POSITIVITY  
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER  
WHAT COMES THEIR WAY,  
THEY DO NOT HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE.

**Year 6 Leavers - latest update**

We had hoped to hold a get-together for last year's Y6 but, in the light of current directives to limit gatherings to six members, this is not going to be possible in the near future. We will still endeavour to meet up with our leavers when we are able to.

**Appeal for help to skilled parents/carers**

The school budget is seriously under pressure after the unexpected expenditure caused by Covid 19 and the demands of the new rules in place at re-opening. The governors and I are appealing to any parents with relevant skills or those who work for companies who work in the following areas: building, glazing, plumbing, ground maintenance etc. We are hoping that by using local companies and individuals we may be able to reduce our costs. Please contact the school if you feel you may be able to help us.

**Praise Assembly - new way of working**

We are intending to use Microsoft teams to carry out online assemblies on Tuesdays and Fridays. We tried this out for the first time this week very successfully. At the moment I am leading them from my room and broadcasting to every class but, in the future, I am hoping to lead the online assemblies from the school hall. We are hopeful that this will feel more like the Praise Assemblies we were used to. Details of children praised in assembly appear below.

**Praise Book Children this week**

**Mrs Burgess and Mrs Maughan's class:** Chloe Barnett - for her brilliant pet picture.

**Mrs Hayward's class:** Isaac Carter - for amazing work in both English and Maths

**Mrs Richardson and Mrs Smith's class:** Jake Quigley for excellent writing across the curriculum





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**Mr Davies' class:** Freya Jones - for always coming in to school with a smile, trying her hardest in every lesson and adjusting to her new class admirably!

**Miss Morris' class:** Bella Smale - for outstanding listening skills and being polite at all times.

**Mr Blenkinsop's class:** Lotty Anderson - for doing an amazing job settling into her new class!

**Mrs Bird's class:** Charlie Crowley - for a great engagement with all lessons.

### School

All the children are now in their new classes with their new teachers and we have welcomed Reception children this week to make our school complete. The classrooms are buzzing with activity. Here is an overview of what has been happening in every class.

**Amethyst class:** Amethyst class have had a great first week together in school. We started our 'Magical Me' topic by reading the story *You Choose* by Nick Sharratt. The children have been talking about and drawing pictures of their families and pets. They have made lots of new friends and we had great fun doing our first PE lesson on Wednesday.

**Sapphire class:** In English, the children in Sapphire class have been thinking, saying and writing sentences, in Maths they have been sorting shapes by colour, shape and size and in geography they have been learning about the four countries which make up the United Kingdom.

**Pearl class:** Pearl class are excited to learn about the Great Fire of London and they have many questions. We have explored the story "Look Up" and we have listed all the things which we can see and have written questions to ask an astronaut. In Maths we have been learning about place value and counting on and counting back.

**Amber class:** this week, Amber Class have been getting to grips with place value in maths, have started to write about the Space Race and the Apollo mission and have started our Phonics sessions. We have worked hard on our fitness in PE and introduced our new Science and History topics - Rocks & Fossils and The Stone Age.

**Emerald class:** This week in English we have looked at our new class book 'Counting on Katherine.' The children have made predictions about our book and they have worked on making expanded noun phrases to describe the pictures on the first few pages. They have remembered how to write sentences in the past progressive tense: was/were plus verb ending in ing. In Maths, we recapped place value of numbers to 1000 and looked at number lines to help us visualise. We also practised rounding numbers to the nearest 10 or 100. In history, the children looked at paintings from the Victorian era and used them as sources to help them find out about life during the Victorian times. Emerald class had their first PE session and also spent time reflecting on the week and talking about emotions.

**Ruby class:** It has been a great start to the year for Ruby Class and the children are all doing a stellar job of adapting to the new routines and expectations of upper-KS2. In maths the children have pushed their understanding from thousands into the ten-thousands. In English we have started off the week by reading 'Of Thee I Sing' by Barack Obama. The children have even drafted letters to the former US president himself! In our guided reading sessions they studied inspiring women through 'Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls' - starting with aquanaut Sylvia Earle and primatologist Jane Goodall. The children had a great time in their first session of Forest Schools with Mr Hadfield; building shelters and discussing life in the trenches of WW1. We have enjoyed a game of outdoor dodgeball in the sunshine; learned to sing our **Ruby Ruby Ruby Ruby** Class anthem; and designed fish that reflect our personalities. The children will also be considering what *bravery* means and engaging in some philosophical debate around this concept.

**Diamond class:** This week, Diamond Class have been looking at a book written by Barack Obama about inspirational people throughout history, and have written a letter to him to describe what they thought about his book. They have also had their first session of Forest Schools, thinking about what a WW2 allied soldier might take away with him when going to war, and for PE, Sportscape have been in to teach the children tag



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rugby. In maths, they have been practising how to halve numbers, mentally, and have looked at different ways to represent large numbers to understand the place value. On Tuesday, the children really enjoyed their first assembly with Mr Perry on the big screen, as well as an assembly with Mrs Bird, in class, thinking about the Christian value of forgiveness. Overall, the children have enjoyed being back with their friends and the classroom has been full of chatter and smiling faces. We're looking forward to next week!

You are all amazing shining stars.



**Attendance**

We are pleased to report that there has been full attendance in school this week by Amethyst, Sapphire and Pearl class. In Key Stage 2, Diamond class has the highest attendance.

**Covid19 Actions for Parents**

We have been sent some helpful advice which may be useful when deciding whether to send your child into school. I have sent it out separately with this newsletter.

**Weekly PE sessions and Forest School**

Most of you will already be aware of your child's PE day(s) but the list below is a reminder. On the allocated day, your child can wear PE kit for the entire day so that an extra bag is not needed. Can we also inform you that Y5 and Y6 can come to school wearing the warm clothes they need for their Forest School session on Mondays. Waterproofs and wellies will still need to be brought in a bag.

Class:	P.E. Day:
Amethyst - Reception	Wednesday
Sapphire - Y1	Friday
Pearl - Y2	Friday
Amber - Y3	Monday
Emerald - Y4	Thursday
Ruby - Y5	Tuesday & Thursday
Diamond - Y6	Wednesday

**Important reminders - social distancing and arrival times**

Please remember the social distancing rule when dropping your child off at school. We are aware that arriving and leaving promptly at your child's set time is difficult if you have two or more children **but could everybody else please keep to the allocated times**, especially when bringing children to school at 8.45 or 9.00 am. We have identified the beginning of the school day as the most difficult time when adults are most likely to be congregating on the premises. These rules have been introduced to keep the children, staff and parents safe and we very much appreciate your help.

A.Perry