

St Mary & St John CE Primary School

Headteacher: Elizabeth Burton



Newsletter 14: 20.07.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are finally coming to the end of an extraordinary year and it is hard to know what to say. The school's normal routine stopped in mid-March and life went on pause. Nothing was as it had been as we all kept our distance and furiously washed our hands!

I am reminded of the famous children's picture book called *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, written by Michael Rosen. It tells the story of a family going on a bear hunt (!) and meeting various natural obstacles on their journey with the refrain;

We can't go over it.

We can't go under it.

Oh no!

We've got to go through it!

Our recent journey feels much like this; no choice, we had to go through it!

We have been through it and, even though I say so myself, done a good job in genuinely challenging circumstances. This would not, however, have been possible without a heroic staff team, highly involved governors, led by a strong, wise, experienced Chair, Sarah Franklin, and supportive families who have worked with us through home learning or bringing children into school outside the normal days, start and finish times.

We said goodbye to our Year 6 children and staff who are leaving today in a hall all set out to maintain social distancing. It was different but the children all received a photobook, presented by Father Phil, shared some memories and watched a video with their contributions. There was a lovely atmosphere and proper closure.

Looking ahead:

We are planning next term to be the **NORMAL START TIME FROM 8.40 WITH AN 8.50 REGISTRATION AND A NORMAL FINISH TIME OF 3.20**. We will give you information about where to drop and collect your children nearer the time.

Breakfast and After School Club are planned to start on **MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**. We will send out information about this next term.

All children will be expected to wear school uniform from September.

I hope we will get our school back to some routine for everybody from September. I will use the summer break to absorb the events of the last few months, reflect and recharge my batteries. I wouldn't have wished this on any of us, but I am glad I've been through it serving this community which manages to carry on giving, even during a pandemic.

Please keep safe and well during the long holiday and I look forward to seeing some of you in September.

SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN ON THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER.

Best wishes,

Liz Burton