



NANSTALLON SCHOOL

AD VITAM PARAMUS

30 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

SCHOOL UPDATE LETTER

I wanted to write to you all to bring together updates and behind the scenes 'happenings' during this time of temporary isolation and to express my sincere gratitude for all the varied work you're doing to support the children.

There are many positive aspects to this situation but equally there are many frustrations and I fear we are now moving into a period where those frustrations are going to come to the fore in many households and families across our community. It is very hard and as much as I would like to reopen the school, I know that it is so important that we all find the strength and patience together to keep going.

Here are some updates for you:

Catering

As of 1 May, we welcome Sarah and Hannah fully to our staff team. We look forward to greater autonomy having parted company with Chartwell's. We are working on a new look menu and meal choices driven by children's tastes ensuring a healthy approach. We will still be subsidising from our budget so it is crucial as many of you support school meals as regularly as possible. We pledge to freeze the current cost to parents for the next academic year and to source our supplies locally.

I plan to introduce a 'passport' / 'loyalty' card scheme for clean plates, eating up salad/vegetables etc that upon completion would enable children to gain a voucher for an individual or family treat. I do not want to promise too much at this stage, but we are working on an initiative.

Wellbeing

In anticipation of an – as yet – uncertain return protocol to school, we are going to tweak the wellbeing survey that Mr Langdon sent out to pupils and parents back in October to help plan for support that is likely to be needed – a link will go out soon on Survey Monkey.

Mrs Ellery is using the school mobile to make calls around families. I am aware that the limitations of confidentiality mean that teachers cannot make calls to you and the children. I hope that you are finding the contact through Tapestry and Seesaw reassuring to some

Nanstallon CP School
Nanstallon
Bodmin
PL30 5JZ

Tel: 01208 831 418
Web: www.nanstallonschool.co.uk
Twitter: @NanstallonSch
Headteacher: Mr B. Stephenson MA (Ed) NPQH

degree. I know that many of the children will be beginning to struggle with maintaining the routine and yourselves, as parents will find engaging them harder, particularly as the weather this week has changed. As I said in my letter of 23 March: *When we are all back in the classroom we will meet the children where they are, teachers will be prepared for this and they are highly skilled.*

At the end of all this your child's mental health will be far more important than their academic skills. How they felt during this time will remain with them long after the memories of what they did and you must be mindful of that every day.

Today Mr Langdon is launching a video compilation of our staff that I hope will bring a smile to you and your children's faces.

School Buildings

Mrs Westlake has done intensive cleaning across the school. We are maintaining daily cleaning routines as we accommodate provision for some children.

We are currently maintaining provision between 8:45am and 1:30pm for children of key workers and vulnerable children. If circumstances have altered for you, as key workers at home please make contact with us if we can help. We can be flexible to your needs.

Governance

This week our governing board met 'virtually'. Due to the unprecedented pressures of Joanne Arundale's job as a senior police officer in the current situation both now and going forward, she felt it only fair to the whole community that she step down from the position of Chair. Jo will remain on the board to support the school during the remaining term of her office as a parent governor. Jo has been a wonderful support right from my appointment in May 2018 through to now. I am grateful to have had such objective, independent and warmth of support and challenge.

Sheena Morton, an experienced governor and Chair, recommended by the local authority governor services to support us has taken over as our chair of governors. Sheena is a retired infant teacher and the current chair of governors at another school. We are grateful that Sheena has stepped in to bring her experience and support during this time. Invigorated by the new energy we have at Nanstallon this year, Sheena will support and challenge our collegiate team that has already demonstrated immense capacity to grow beyond what we have already achieved together since September 2018.

In closing, I reiterate my sincere thanks to you all and hope this update is helpful.

Warmest regards,



Mr B Stephenson

Headteacher