



The Federation of Antrobus St Marks and Great Budworth CE (A) Primary School
Headteacher: Mrs S A Finney

Email: head@antrobus.cheshire.sch.uk
Email: head@greatbudworth.cheshire.sch.uk
Telephone: ASM 01606 288800
Telephone: GB 01606 891383

Dear Parents

The latest news regarding the extension of lockdown, whilst not a total surprise, is disappointing as we are really missing having all our children in school as I'm sure you are missing sending them in. However, you are doing a great job- even though you might not think you are. The take up and response to the remote learning provided is on the whole excellent in every class. If anything, the staff feel for some of you it is almost too much so I urge you all as we move towards half term to reflect on what you have been doing. This is something we do all the time in school.

Remember that in school, we would break up the learning with bursts of fresh air and exercise every day. We would judge after lessons whether the hard work of the morning means we need to switch our plans for the afternoon. If we feel that our class have reached an academic and emotional overload, particularly if something has been a bit tricky then we would do something else. We reward all effort with choosing and downtime where they can mix and play and socialise with friends. I know this can't be done physically but it can be done virtually. We also know that you are not teachers and are juggling all your other jobs and family commitments so please be kind to yourselves. Not everything has to be done every day. Staff provide as much as they can but this doesn't mean it all has to be done and done straight away, it doesn't mean that if they were delivering it in school it would all get done either.

Do your best and we will be ready to pick things up and get going again once we are all back. This isn't a sprint, it's a marathon and there is a lot at stake if we get things very wrong in terms of our mental health and well-being.

We are coming to the end of the half term and in school, we are all feeling a bit weary and ready for the break as I'm sure you are too, so we would like you to share in our plans for some well-being days. In particular we have planned a "screen free" day. Each class teacher will provide a variety of things you can do away from the screen. Mrs Perkes has added extra activities to her ELSA page on the website. I'm sure the older children are capable of looking at what's on

offer and setting themselves a timetable of activities that can be done. Planning these things can be as exciting as doing them!

Moving on, I would like to say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Jane Robins who finishes this week to take up a promotion at her other job. We will miss you in school but hopefully will still see you in and around Great Budworth and at school events in the future.

We also will say goodbye and thank you to Mrs Sue Lawless, who will "officially" leave us at the end of the term too. I say "officially" because I'm sure you, like me, can't imagine Antrobus without her! (I have already set her up on the system to come back and provide support because I'm sure we will need it from time to time.)

We aren't able to celebrate in the way we would like and so I will invite all our leavers back to a huge celebration as soon as we can safely hold one to mark our love and grateful thanks for all that they have done over the years for our schools.

We welcome, Mrs Gratton Berry and Mrs Sue Tutt to the roles of Office admin. I know they are raring to go and establish themselves in our communities alongside Mrs Nicola Crampton who has taken on the role of Bursar. Mrs Crampton started and then has stopped after some very sad family news and our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family at this time.

Mr Southern still isn't well enough to return to school and we do thank Mr Ward for stepping back in to help with some of the caretaking duties at both schools.

During half term, Creative Play will be removing the old play equipment in the safe zone at Great Budworth for our youngest children and we look forward to having all the new equipment installed and ready for our return after half term.

Forest Schools are now taking place in both schools regularly but rest assured once we are fully back, all those who haven't experienced these fun sessions will get a turn to do so.

Please remember if you are critical worker families and you have a "day off" from work, then you should keep your children home on those days. Just lately we are having children in school who are saying that parents are at home having a day off. School should only be a last resort to enable you to work.

Finally, when we returned in September, one of my acts of Collective Worship spoke about worry and I shared this text and some thoughts with the children. I share it with you now ready for well-being week.

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul writes (Ch 4:6-8);

Do not worry. Learn to pray about everything. Give thanks to God as you ask Him for what you need. The peace of God is much greater than the human mind can understand. This peace will keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Christian brothers and sisters, keep your minds thinking about whatever is true, whatever is respected, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever can be loved, and whatever is well thought of. If there is anything good and worth giving thanks for, think about these things.

Kind regards

S Finney

Sandra Finney
Headteacher
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www.antrobusandbudworthceprimaryschools.co.uk