

# Otterham C P School

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Dear Parents

As we reach the end of yet another unsettling term there is much to remain positive about. Friendships have been rekindled, children have continued to learn (the majority of end of term assessments have been pleasing), the school community has remained COVID free and the sun is shining!

Looking forward to the summer term, we are excited about the prospect of a gradual return to some form of normality and maybe even the removal of 'bubbles'. A sponsored walk, ocarinas, African drumming and a trip to the beach are some of the planned activities for the first half of the term and we hope to add further experiences to enhance the provision. If the 'roadmap' goes to plan, we may even get to gather for a sports day at the end of the term – fingers crossed!

Teachers are planning to hold socially distanced parental consultations during the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> April to share latest observations on social and emotional wellbeing as well as information regarding attainment and progress. Please look out for communications regarding making an appointment during the first week back after the Easter break.

Thank you for your efforts in sending your children to school in uniform. I can appreciate that children have grown (some quite considerably) since the Christmas holidays and getting hold of some items of uniform may have been a challenge. As all retail will be opening from 12<sup>th</sup> April, please be reminded that footwear should be black shoes or trainers, thank you. You can find a list of uniform requirements on the school website.

As many of you are aware, James Humber made his arrival into the world on 5<sup>th</sup> March (St Piran's Day), making him 'proper Cornish!' We wish the Humber family well as they settle into life with their new addition. Due to the lockdown since Christmas, the decision was made to delay the appointment of Mrs Humber's maternity cover until an April start date. We are delighted to announce that Mrs Towe will be starting after Easter to support Mrs Blackburn and the rest of the team in Class 3.

Talking of teams, we have another couple of additions to the whole school team. Mrs Ryall will be joining us as a Teaching Assistant after Easter, working mainly in Class 3 but also in Class 1 on a Tuesday morning. Also, Aspens have finally found a suitable Catering Manager for the kitchen as Mark Edwards has been training for the role for the past couple of weeks and will be going solo after Easter. Welcome both!

Thank you for your support with the couple of fund raising events recently. Comic Relief non-uniform day raised £77.50 and the Friends Easter Colouring Competition has added £50 to the pot. The standard of creativity made judging process very tricky indeed but after much deliberation from the four judges the winners are as follows,

Class 1 – Phoebe, Sophie Sanders, Amy

Class 2 – Annabelle, Finn, Ailla

Class 3 – Ruby, Skyla-Rose, Jenson

Finally, thank you again for all of your support during the challenges of lockdown 3, there is a definite feeling here at school that we have made it to the other side without any major COVID dramas, and long may that last! I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, manage some quality family time together and maybe even visit friends in gardens ☺.

We return to school on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April with the same systems in place regarding arrival and home time.

Kindest regards

Helen Ward



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