



Holywell Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Coert van Straaten MA. Ed, Dip Edu, NPQH

We are a learning community with the spirit to succeed

19th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Parents' Evening

I am writing to you in preparation for Parents' Evening, which is fast approaching. As I am sure you can appreciate we have a lot of ground to make up pupils learning now that school has fully reopened for all pupils since the beginning of September.

School was effectively closed on Friday 20th March 2020 and our pupils' education has been severely disrupted as a result of this.

During the first two weeks of lock down pupils were set homework. From then onwards our online learning was redeveloped to a good standard but I think you would agree, it is not as good as face to face learning.

From observing lessons around the school it is clear that all pupils in the school, especially pupils in the younger years, have taken the biggest hit educationally as a result of the lock down. I have spoken to other Headteachers and it appears that these children are the ones who found online learning the most challenging. In addition, we know that not all pupils were able to access the online learning and a lot of parents continued to work throughout lock down, which meant they could not support their children's learning. On the other hand, many pupils also gained much from the online learning, live lessons and support from their parents.

Through reorganising our curriculum we are hoping that all pupils are back on track by the summer term 2021. We have a focussed English and Maths strategy in place and our priorities in the school are:

In the Nursery we are focussing on the Prime Areas of learning with a particular focus on communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development.

Reception class teachers are focussing on the use of language in particular looking at vocabulary and phonetical knowledge. This obviously links to reading with an addition focus on mathematics.

Our focus on Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 is around reading, writing and maths. That includes phonetical knowledge and increasing pupils' vocabulary. Through our broad balanced curriculum we aim to increase pupils' knowledge and use of vocabulary in all subjects.



The curriculum should remain broad, so that the majority of pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year, including sciences, humanities, the arts, physical education/sport, religious education and relationships and health education.

The purpose of the letter is not to alarm you but to put things into context for parents. Our assessment system harshly shows that pupils have made little or no progress when clearly as teachers we know that pupils have already made some good progress across many areas since their return to school. We want pupils back up to speed as soon as possible and ask that parents support us in this drive. We have created a reading focus action plan as we feel that this is our most important focus and something parents can clearly assist us with.

Teacher will update parents on where we feel pupils are during Parents' Evening. They will update parents on the progress that pupils have made since school reopened in September and will set clear targets that we want pupils to work on academically, and personally. We are focussed and determined to get pupils back on track and want to reassure parents of this.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C van Straaten', written in a cursive style.

Mr C van Straaten
Headteacher