

Dream, Believe, Achieve Together

●●● Finally the dream has come true...

I have to say everyone, it is an incredibly emotional time to be writing my first newsletter since December and I sincerely hope this is the last time I have to write to you all to re-open the school after a shutdown. I am well aware of the impact this pandemic has had on children, families and staff in school and I really want you all to know that for the last 4 weeks of this term it will be about celebrating, enjoying and appreciating the people we have around us. What I have learnt greatly from the pandemic more than anything, is what a fabulous community we are together and without each other we wouldn't be able to support the amazing children we have.

Re-opening plans ●●●

You will have all received the plans for re-opening of school and the staggering of start and finish times. This will be exactly the same as September and the timetable for this is on the school website. I just wanted to add a couple of important bits of information:

- Please can we restrict dropping and collecting to 1 adult unless it has been agreed with Mr Williams
- Can all visitors please wear a face mask when coming to school unless you are exempt.
- Can I ask most importantly that you DO NOT arrive early to drop off or collect and please only arrive within the time allocated for your child's bubble. Siblings will be dropped off and collected at the same time.

●●● What to expect in the next 4 weeks

So within the next four weeks, more than anything else we want the children to feel settled, happy and back into the routine of school. Learning will start but with a bit of a twist. We want to base our learning around reflecting on the pandemic and using our experiences to help us so each year group will be basing their learning around a particular book. I've shared a few examples below and why they've been chosen, I hope this captures how we want to support the children in the coming weeks.

Year 1's book is **The Storm Whale.**

It's focus is all around what you can do to spread kindness and be a good friend. It touches upon loneliness as well and how a friend can help support you to feel better.

Year 4's book is **'Me and my Fear.'**

This book shows us the importance of sharing your Fear with others, as everyone carries a Fear with them in unfamiliar and new situations. It shows how friendship, empathy and connection and help bring the overwhelming down to size and hopefully it helps them recognise that it doesn't have to rule the day.

Year 2's book is '**The Bog Baby'**

We will be looking at how we can take care of ourselves and others and what we all need to thrive, not just survive. This also links with our science topic of living things too; we will be teaching the children some techniques to support their own wellbeing based around the themes of exercise, relaxation, curiosity and sharing the love

Reception's book is '**The World Made a Rainbow'**

It looks at a little girl who is stuck inside due to lockdown and how different colours of the rainbow remind her of different things. We will also be looking at things/people who are special to us and being grateful. The thread we will be focusing on throughout is kindness and friendship and how we can look after each other and identify emotions in ourselves and others.

Year 6's text is called **'Survivors.'**

Our text is a collection of short, real-life stories and accounts of courageous people, including children, who have drawn on their strength, bravery and self-belief to beat the odds. It will naturally lead on to discussions about resilience and personal qualities.

Pandora's book is called **'Ruby's Worry'**

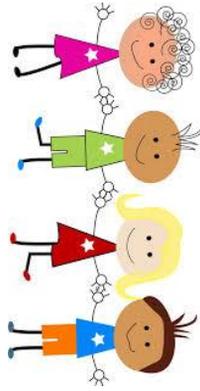
is all about how we can deal with our worries when they become too big to handle alone. We'll be making worry dolls and learning all about Guatemala where they come from and how we can deal with our personal worrie

After School Clubs ●●●

You will have now received all the information you need for your child to come to an after school club. In order to run these effectively we need as many children as possible to turn up. Please, please encourage them to stay after school and have a really enjoyable time in a relaxed environment. Remember this term is all about supporting their well-being!

Supporting the Well-Being of all Pupils

I know by now you'll feel I'm a bit like a broken record going on and on about the well-being of the children but it is something that Mrs Gill and I feel really passionate about which is why we are planning a number of supportive initiatives for when the children return. We have already setup some after school clubs, specific classes have some additional curriculum activities coming up; we're increasing the number of Art Therapy sessions and are currently looking into a variety of alternative programmes to support the children. If you feel that your child is in need of additional support as a result of the most recent lockdown then please come and talk to Mrs Gill or myself about this. We really want to spend the next few weeks observing and seeing how well the children settle back into school. I am determined that we will ensure this school year is as memorable and enjoyable as it can possibly be.



Parent Governors

Thank you so much for the really positive response from parents and carers regarding the opportunity to become a governor at the school. We have at least 5 parents who have put their names forward and I am meeting them remotely this evening before we have a ballot starting next week. It is crucial that we count on your vote for this. Each parent will be writing a brief statement about themselves and what they can offer the school. The voting is then down to you so it's important that you take part please. We have 3 vacancies that we would love to fill and each parent who is applying has skills and knowledge that will compliment our existing team.

Term Dates 2021-2022

It's crazy really that we have missed so much of this year and last year but we have now set the dates for the following academic year. These are available on the school website please just click the .link to access them. Paper copies will be available later in the school year and all parents and carers will have been emailed them too.
http://www.deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk/serve_file/1015309;



Blacon Art Trail- Easter 2021

I wanted to give you a little bit of information regarding an exciting Easter Art Trail that you will be able to do during the Easter holidays. I know many of you enjoyed Cooper's Trail that Mr Ortega had brilliantly organised, well this is a similar project across Blacon where you will have the chance to find 21 different art pieces around the local area. They are all linked to Spring. We have a board that some of the children from Dee Point will be creating in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye out for more information.

Red Nose Day & Sport Relief

We said we promised plenty of fun when we return well Red Nose Day on Friday 19th March is going to be filled with laughter. Please look out for the letter about this and donations can be made here:
[https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2529;](https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2529)



And Finally...

Well we are almost there and nobody is more excited that me I promise you that!! I have to admit that we have had a few staffing challenges recently. We have 8 staff currently off work having started their maternity leave and 3 staff who have had to shield. As well as this some of our team have had some personal challenges to deal with in the last few months so as much as I want the children to have a lovely time, I equally want my staff to as well. They are so committed and so dedicated to your children, it makes me feel immensely proud. Let's have a fantastic few weeks together before Easter. Thank you so much everyone, it's only this good because we all love it so much!! WELCOME BACK! Let the fun begin!!!

Kind regards

Dave Williams (Headteacher)

