

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'

Headteacher: Mrs. J Holden



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Friday, 4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the approach which the school will be adopting with effect from September 7th 2020 with regard to the curriculum. Whilst we are confident that many children will quickly 'bounce back' after the lockdown we are aware that there will be some children who have experienced anxiety during this time. In September we have updated PSHE curriculum and we have now reconfigured this for autumn 2020 so that work in all year groups centres on health and wellbeing.

At Our Lady of Peace, we do not feel that it is helpful to focus on what has been 'lost' during the shutdown. Moreover, many of our children at that time have been working hard and producing good work and have benefited from time spent with their families, exploring and experiencing different opportunities to grow, learn and achieve in different contexts. The staff have the best knowledge and experience of how to teach, support children in 'closing the gap' where required, we will continue to provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum.

Assessment

In the next few weeks teachers will be using a range of strategies such as formative assessment and questioning to identify gaps or misconceptions which will be addressed and taught through the curriculum. There will be no formal, summative assessments to see what pupils know or don't know, at least in the first few weeks of pupils being back in school. Taking this approach will help pupils feel secure in what they already know and confident about what else they need to learn.

Class teachers will use their own expertise to establish starting points for each class in the autumn term and will likely have to take "a step back" in order to help children then move forward with confidence but each child and class will be different. To strengthen routines, relationships and resilience it is important that, in a measured supportive way, teachers and children get back to established ways of working rather than spending too long on a formal testing regime, especially when children's confidence will be low.

English

The school has looked carefully at those National Curriculum objectives which were not taught by class teachers due to school closure from March 23rd 2020. As children will be returning to school in a new year group, the National Curriculum objectives for the autumn term have also been carefully studied. As a result, teachers will be able to, within their planning for the autumn term adopt a cross curricular approach to teaching which will

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*In partnership with The Diocese of Northampton and Slough Borough Council, Department of Education
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and promoting the welfare of children*

ensure that any missed objectives can and will be taught. Phonics teaching will be a priority for those children who will be in Years 1 and 2 in September.

Mathematics

The school has decided to take a similar approach towards the teaching of Maths. Key objectives since school closure have been identified and these will be taught in the autumn term. The school currently follows the White Rose Maths scheme and guidance has been provided in relation to how the objectives from the previous year can also be taught in the new academic year.

Foundation Subjects

Government guidance clearly states that it would be impossible to teach every lesson that has been missed. For this reason, the school has decided to identify key concepts, knowledge and skills that pupils need to understand in each subject before progressing and these will be taught in the autumn term. The school will adopt a cross-curricular approach where possible so that a creative approach can be taken to develop children's knowledge and consolidate their learning.

Pupils with Additional Needs

We are aware that for some children with additional needs, returning to school after lockdown may cause additional anxiety or stress. Children with additional needs will be supported by the school inclusion team to ensure a smooth transition when returning to school. Mrs Brown has been in contact with pupils on the SEN register to support with their transition back into school.

Staff will continue to be responsive to the needs of individual pupils and additional support will be provided where necessary. Small group or 1:1 support may take a different form in the autumn term so that adults and children remain safe, for example, sitting side by side, staff and pupils working at a greater distance from each other, and working in different parts of the school building. Staff who are in close contact with the individual children may wear PPE.

The staff and I are confident that the children at Our Lady of Peace will continue to grow and flourish, we are very much looking forward to this academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J.A. Holden
Head teacher