



St. Peter's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Opening doors with learning, faith and care

FRIDAY 8TH JANUARY 2021

WHAT A WEEK!

If you had told me on Monday, when the staff team were developing exciting plans to further develop our approach to Guided Reading in our staff training day, that by the time I sat down on Friday to write my newsletter that we would be once again 'closed' to all but critical workers as part of a National lockdown, I would never have believed you.

Like the rest of the country, watching the Prime Minister's announcement at 8pm on Monday night was devastating and the challenges we faced as a school to turn around critical worker provision and remote learning overnight felt simply impossible.

Since then every member of our school family has worked tirelessly to enable us to continue to offer high-quality education to all of our pupils, whilst simultaneously accommodating high numbers of children in school, enabling critical workers to continue their essential work in fighting this pandemic. So whilst the start of this week was not what any of us would have wanted; I end the week, once again, feeling immensely proud of our school and our community.

I do not think there will ever be a time when our school values have been demonstrated more than they have been in the last week.

Our learners have been simply phenomenal! They have once again blown us away with their resilience, trust and kindness. They have adapted to learning at home, managed distractions and dealt with technical hiccups; They have approached a whole new school setup with a smile, they have happily accepted working with new friends and new teachers. Be they in school or at home, they have just rolled with every challenge and are already making us proud with all that they have achieved in just 3 short days.

Parents, you have faced the unknown, waited patiently for updates, managed your own anxieties and worries about the pandemic, as well as overcoming the immense challenge of balancing work and home-learning once again. You really are doing an amazing job, under very difficult circumstances and we thank you for all your efforts! We know that things won't always go to plan, but we know that with your support and understanding we will overcome any barriers we may face, together.

I am sure that you will all agree that the work-ethic of our teaching team has been phenomenal this week, their diligence and perseverance in delivering an exceptional online learning offer which keeps getting better is truly inspirational and once again demonstrates their ongoing commitment to ensuring that our pupils are not disadvantaged in any way as a result of this pandemic.

Finally, I cannot thank our amazing team of support staff enough for demonstrating immense courage in continuing face to face provision for our children in school. Every day they are supporting learners from reception to year 6, stepping out of their comfort zones, helping our learners to manage an enormous amount of change in such a short space of time and helping them to see through the storm and look for the rainbows.

We never take for granted the exceptional community we are part of here at St. Peter's and your messages of support and kindness over the past few days have really helped all of us to keep going and keep getting better. Please do lean on us if you need anything at all, we are here to help and will do all that we can to support you and your family through this difficult time.

Have a wonderful weekend, stay safe and we cannot wait to see you all in school again very soon.

Mrs Pilkington

