



## **BECOMING REFLECTIVE, INDEPENDENT & ASPIRATIONAL LEARNERS FOR LIFE**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Amberley Primary School: it's been such a long time since we welcomed full classes back to school, and it has been such a strange and scary time. We look forward to developing an element of normality as the children restart school, but we acknowledge that 'getting back to normal' will offer challenges in itself.

You will by now have seen the paperwork from Miss Cale about what the school has put in place, dictated by Government Guidelines, and will have noted the part staff, parents and pupils will play in making sure we are all as safe as possible. In the early days of term, the children will have these rules and responsibilities explained and reiterated to them so they fully understand their roles. We will balance this by spending time exploring the importance of a positive mindset and a healthy level of spirituality in order to foster good well-being.

This term we will be continuing our 'immersion curriculum', which means topics in subjects such as Science, Geography, History, PSHCE, Music and Art will be blocked to allow the children to really immerse themselves in their learning. Before half term we will be having weekly blocks of Art (Textiles), Geography (Studying Iceland), Music (composing), PSHCE (Citizenship and British Values), and a fortnightly blocks of Science (Forces), with further topics of History, Science, Art and DT to be completed after half term in the run-up to Christmas. Before each of these blocks begins, you will receive a brief overview of what we will be learning and how we will be launching and celebrating that learning. These will also be available on the Belted Galloway section of the school website.

While these subjects will be taught in blocks, other subjects, such as computing, RE, PE and Spanish will be taught weekly, and maths and English will be taught daily. Blocks of work in English up to Christmas will focus on story-writing, persuasive writing, recounts, poetry and instruction writing, while in maths we will focus on number operations, place value and properties of number, before beginning our studies of fractions, as well as developing problem solving and reasoning skills. Our RE topics is called "Why Do Hindus try to be Good?" and is an expensive study of the Hindu religion, but will be complimented by regular work on the Christian values of Friendship and Truthfulness as well as devoted time on developing spirituality and reflection.

As always, we appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is organised with the necessary equipment that is required. PE will take place on Thursdays and Fridays this term, and we ask children have the appropriate PE kit on those days. Instead of a Reading Record, children will be encouraged to use a diary, more akin to a secondary school planner, where they can keep track of events at school, note when they have read (please feel free to sign this if your child reads to you), record any key information they need to learn, and generally organise themselves. Further information about homework will be sent soon.

Year 6 children will have received letters containing important information about secondary school transition, while many are preparing themselves to sit grammar school tests. Many year 5 and 6 pupils are also excited about our trip to PGL, which has now been moved to the Spring term. More information about PGL will be on its way imminently as Mrs Russell is working hard to secure new dates.

If you haven't already done so, you are all invited to visit the Belted Galloway part of the school website and subscribe to receive our blogs. I blog weekly about what is going on in class, and I will be inviting children to blog about special occurrences in class from time to time.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to get the most out of your children this year and continue their journey to becoming independent, enthusiastic learners. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Beech