

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a lovely week in school welcoming back some of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children. We are settling into our new 'normal' with all the control measures of: social distancing, smaller class/bubble sizes, regular hand-washing, regular sanitising and cleaning, and reduced sharing of equipment. The children have showed remarkable resilience and ability to pick up and follow the new routines. We are so proud of them all and how they have adapted! There is a calm, friendly and purposeful atmosphere in school and we are really looking forward to seeing more of our Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children next week.

Here are some of the lovely activities that have taken place in school since Monday.

Reception:

We have had a wonderful first week back in Reception Class! It has been lovely to see some of our friends and get back into a routine. The children have been playing outdoors for lots of the day; they have been on nature hunts, a mini beast hunt and playing with the bikes and scooters. There have been lots of lovely activities planned for the children such as rainbow writing, colour mixing, painting rainbows, phonics, counting, making ladders and learning about taller and shorter! The children have been excellent at remembering to give each other space and sanitising and washing their hands throughout the day. It has been so lovely to see the children and their happy smiling faces and hearing about what they have been up to with their home learning. The children are having a lovely time in school and enjoying seeing their friends and teachers and cannot wait to see what we learn about next week!

Year 1

We have eight children in the year one bubble. Children were a little shy at first on return to school but by Monday lunchtime, all children were full of smiles and laughter. You would think that they'd never been away from school!

They have been busy this week writing questions about any uncertainties that they had about 'being in a bubble'. They listened to a fabulous story about a tortoise who couldn't hug his best friend because he was a prickly hedgehog. We compared this to the current situation that we are in and discussed ways that we can show that we care for others, without hugging or touching them. Grasping the concept of social distancing and what two metres looks like is quite difficult so we watched a video that showed us lots of things that are approximately two metres long. Our favourite was 23 ducklings crossing the street.

Lunchtimes have been such good fun because we have managed to eat our packed lunches outside whilst chatting and listening to music through a speaker. The chocolate chip cookies at snack time have been absolutely delicious! We even got the chance to boogie when we had finished. Our highlight was when Mrs Graham provided us with our own scooters and tubes of bubbles. Some children who weren't very confident at riding their scooters are like pros now! We have even had a few games of ten pin bowling. We really can't believe how quickly the school day goes by but they do say 'time flies when you're having fun'.



Year 6 Bubble 1

This week year 6 have been fabulous! We have been up to all sorts! We are currently working through our spy persuasive activities. We are looking forward to creating our own gadget next week! In addition to this, we have been busy learning about equations and metric measures in maths. We have been reflecting on our time in school by listening to some fabulous friendship songs. In science, we learned about the work of Jane Goodall and planned our own advert to help save the chimpanzees. We looked on the Chester Zoo website since they have been appealing to the public. This gave us some great ideas. Yesterday, we were introduced to the 'Hope is at the heart of Our Lady of the Rosary' art project. We watched the video with the artist Greg McGee then planned our own 'hope' artwork. We are going to create these later on this week.

Year 6 Bubble 2

School is a very different place at the moment but the children in Bubble 2 have enjoyed their first week back. There have been lots of handwashing, social distancing and work!

We have been revising the basics in maths, learning about persuasive writing in English including writing an estate agent advert for a multimillion pound house. In RE, we have been learning about the signs and symbols in the Sacrament of the Sick and why the sacrament is so important for Catholics especially during these trying times. In science we learnt about the animal behaviourist Jane Goodall and in geography we designed our own animal perfectly adapted to living in the Rainforest.

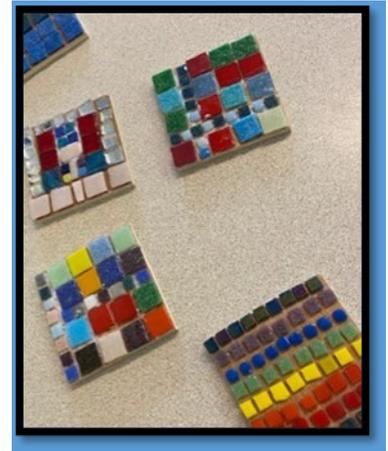
Thank goodness the weather has been kind as we have spent lots of time playing outdoors.

Key worker children

Staff and Keyworker children have had a fabulous week so far in their school bubble. In addition to literacy and numeracy lessons, the children have had an opportunity to make a start on the 'Hope' collaboration between Our Lady of The Rosary and North East artist, Greg McGee, to inspire creativity and also consider what we (yes, teaching staff have been joining in too) have missed during lockdown, and indeed, what we are most looking forward to when lockdown restriction are reduced further. They have experimented with water colours and created a collage with natural materials and card to create abstract structures of Peterlee's Pavilion.

The children have also worked on STEM activities, including building towers using clothes pegs and lolly sticks. They had a lovely competition in the classroom and it was wonderful to see the children healthily challenge each other to create the tallest, and most colourful tower.

In addition to this, all children have had an opportunity to work with a variety of mixed media including wood, mosaic tiles, and mirror pieces to create their own designs of coasters or sun catchers. The enthusiasm has been gorgeous, and the children have settled wonderfully into their bubbles.



Please let the office today if you are from one of the identified groups and are intending for your child to return next week. It is assumed children that have attended school this week will continue to do so until the end of term. Please let us know if this is not the case. Please note, once a parent asks that their child is removed from a bubble they cannot return again before the end of term.

We look forward to seeing more of your smiling faces in school next week. Sending our best wishes as always.

Mrs Graham, Mrs Sutherland & Mrs White.

