

7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am so pleased to welcome you all back to school and to Torpel class. After such a long time away from school, it is so wonderful to see your children here today, and for us all to be together. They have all settled back in beautifully, and I am privileged to be beginning my time at John Clare with them.

The following is for your information:

- **Staffing in Torpel:**

This year, I will be teaching the children all day on Mondays and Tuesdays, and for the mornings on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Nicolson will teach on Wednesday afternoons, and on Thursdays and Fridays, the children will be taught by Mrs Morris and Total Sports.

- **Regulations relevant to COVID-19**

You will have had a good deal of information from school regarding the measures we are taking to keep your children safe at this time. Please familiarise yourself with this information and do not hesitate to contact us if there are any questions you may have. In Torpel, we have our own toilets and hand washing facilities, and there is a hand sanitizing unit situated outside the classroom door which the children will be expected to use on entrance and exit. The children will be sitting in rows and will eat lunch in their own classroom for the time being. To begin with, in the mornings, the children will need to line up on the ramp so that they can maintain distancing as they put their belongings away in their lockers.

I appreciate that these measures feel very different to usual school; however, I am confident that the children will adapt to and learn the new routines very quickly, so that they become part of life.

- **Home Learning**

**This year, home learning will be set on Google Classroom.**

To begin with, children will be set one mathematics and one literacy task per week (reading or Grammar, punctuation and spelling). The work they complete at home can be uploaded to Google Classroom for me to respond to.

After October half term, the likelihood is that we will send revision guides home, and that pages from these will be set for homework. I will update you on this in due course.

All home learning is set on a **Friday** and **due in the following Thursday**. We encourage all children to complete their home learning tasks **as independently as possible**, but parent support is encouraged!

Please do not hesitate to contact me should your child have problems completing the activities or if you have any barriers at home which make it difficult to access or complete the homework via Google Classroom. If your child required lots of support completing a home learning task, please bring this to my attention by attaching a private comment to your upload.

- **Reading**

The children have access to a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts in the school and class library; however, they may also bring in books from home. I will keep a record of which books the children are reading, and they will be heard to read at least weekly in school. The children will also have weekly guided reading sessions, in which we will discuss a text in more detail, usually within a small group. As ever, please continue to read to and listen to your child read.

- **PE**

PE will take place on a Thursday and Friday afternoon this term, and on these days, they need to come into school in their PE kit. Please remember a jumper and tracksuit bottoms for the colder weather.

- **Google Classroom**

In order that the children are kept up to date and confident with how to use Google Classroom, some tasks will be set on there for the children to complete in school. These will, for example, be set in the form of focus tasks like grammar activities and will be clearly marked - \*to be completed in school\*. Home learning will be clearly identifiable and labelled \*Home Learning\*. Please do check the Classroom regularly.

In the event that your child needs to isolate due to symptoms of Covid 19, or in the event of a full bubble closure, complete learning tasks will be set on Google Classroom for your child to access.

- **Outdoor Learning**

We have had many very generous donations of plants, seeds, and gardening tools for the Torpel garden and this will be a project for the children this year. I intend to have the children outside for learning **for at least part of every day**, regardless of weather conditions, and with this in mind please ensure that they have a warm waterproof coat with them when necessary. If you wish to send an old pair of trainers or wellies for the children to keep in school, you are welcome to do so.

Finally, I must acknowledge the many mixed emotions that I am certain you will have about your children returning to school today. I know that your individual experiences of lockdown will be shaping your feelings about your child's return to school; whether they have had time in school as a key worker child or not, your children will all have had a very different learning experience from "usual" school. This cannot be ignored and there are many lessons we can learn. In Year 6, we have the added pressure that this is the children's last year of Primary school, in which we must prepare them well for Secondary and life beyond John Clare. However, please be assured that I have the best interests of all your children at the forefront of my mind, and will be adapting my teaching wherever necessary to ensure that their learning is of high quality and that their well-being, enjoyment and enrichment are my top priority.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me, through the office, with any queries/concerns that you may have about your child.

*Mrs Breslin*