



**St. Michael at Bowes**

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Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well. This letter aims to provide you with additional information about the academic, social and emotional aspects of your child's return to school in September.

Our children will have had very varied experiences of lockdown and our main priorities on their return will be settling them back into school routines, acquainting them with our 'new normal' and supporting them to feel safe and secure; reconnecting them with their friends and teachers. We have created the first part of a recovery curriculum, to be delivered over the first two to three weeks of term and revisited during the term as needed. This will support the children's learning and give them an opportunity, if they need it, to talk about their experiences and look to the future.

Our lessons will begin as short ones of around 30 minutes to help rebuild stamina for learning and build back up until the children are able to learn for longer periods of time. The curriculum will focus mainly on the following things:

- Revision of maths and science objectives from the spring and summer term
- Refocusing on reading for pleasure, including reading aloud, producing book reviews and holding 'book tasting' sessions
- An exploration of our school values and how these help us through difficult times
- A whole school project based around our collective and individual experiences of lockdown to create artwork that will contribute to a whole school mural
- PSHCE lessons focussing on building relationships, emotional wellbeing and resilience
- Writing projects focussed on the positive stories that came from the lockdown period (for example Marcus Rashford's contribution to Free School Meals provision, Captain Sir Tom Moore's walk for the NHS etc.
- Lessons focussed on the brain, how we learn and how we can maximise our learning power
- Lessons introducing/revising Growth Mindset theory
- Mindfulness and meditation sessions

We do not believe that, after an absence from school of over five months, it would benefit our children to sit formal baseline assessments as soon as they return. Instead, we will be using a combination of observations, conversations, moderation of work and short, focused quizzes. This will allow us to move the children's learning on quickly.

Each year group team will have the flexibility to adapt to the needs of the children they teach, assess their individual needs based on the work they produce and our conversations with them. This will allow us to tailor our curriculum for the remainder of the term to ensure all children 'catch up' with their learning if they need to. It will also allow us to widen and deepen the understanding of those pupils who remain on track to meet or exceed age-related expectations.

Each teacher will also be contacting you within the first three weeks of school to have a conversation about your child's strengths and areas for development. After all, you really have been your child's primary educator since the end of March! You will know better than anyone where your child has excelled and developed, and where they may need additional support. This will replace our usual October Parents' Consultation meetings and we will send more details of this as soon as school starts.

Home learning tasks will be set through Class Dojo and on our new learning platform, Microsoft Teams (more information about this will follow soon). This will allow us to keep you well informed about your child's learning and progress and allow you to provide us with any feedback about how your child is getting on while we are unable to meet with you face to face.

If you have any questions or queries about the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Butcher, who is leading on the curriculum, through Class Dojo or by email at [office@smab.enfield.sch.uk](mailto:office@smab.enfield.sch.uk)

Thank you once again for your support.

Kind regards

Maria Jay

Headteacher