



# Castor Church of England Primary School

Stocks Hill, Castor, Peterborough Cambs PE5 7AY  
Telephone: 01733 380280

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

What a lovely first week back we have had in school. The corridors, classrooms and playgrounds have been full of noise, laughter, enthusiasm and fun, which is exactly how we wanted it to be. I could not be more proud of the environment and climate that the staff have created, and the way in which your children have enjoyed it. Well done to all!

Class teachers and support staff have spent this week getting to know their children, reintroducing them to the school routines and getting them used to being back in the school environment. They have been beginning to evaluate where they are with their learning, and this is a process that will be ongoing and will underpin what we teach the children this year.

The children themselves have been remarkable. They have settled incredibly well, and we get the sense that they are just glad to be back and have that sense of normality. Some just could not wait to sit down, pick up a pencil and do some work! Those that have wanted to talk about the last 6 months have had the opportunity to do so, and have impressed us with their honest and open reflections. We have also spent time in Collective Worship reflecting on our experiences, comparing the lockdown period to like being on Noah's Ark, and the virus itself being like the storm that was calmed by Jesus. Our Christian value for this term will be 'Hope', and we will be spending time in Collective Worship exploring what this value means in a Christian context. It is a value that we will all be able to relate to in our everyday lives at the minute. A harder concept for the children to understand at the minute is that just like when Jesus calmed the storm, this storm shall too be calmed. Looking forward with this hope and optimism will be our focus, and we will support the children if at times they find this hard.

Our new members of staff and new children have settled in well and we are very much looking forward to welcoming our 28 new children into our Reception class on Monday.

## **Protective measures**

Thank you for your support in ensuring that the school is as safe as it can be. The children arrived on Monday knowing exactly what to expect, and this is down to how well you had prepared them. It is still the case that I have not had to speak to a single child who has not conformed to the protective measures e.g. bubbles, hand washing. We must give the children a lot of credit for how they have conducted themselves, well done and thank you children.

We will not be making any significant changes to the measures we have put in place because they have worked so well. If there is anything for us to work on, it would be trying to ensure that we arrive at the school site as close to your allocated time as you can - in some ways an early arrival can cause more problems than a late arrival if you queuing up with the wrong class. However, we fully appreciate that we are all learning the new timings and procedures, and we're confident that this will naturally just become 'slicker' in time.



*"We have faith in God, ourselves and everyone around us"*

From Monday 14th September, children in Years 5 and 6 will be able to walk home alone again if we have your written consent to do so. A letter is attached to this ParentMail

### **School lunches**

From Monday 21st September, The Farm Kitchen will be serving hot meals again on site. The menus for this and future weeks are now live. Please note that the deadline for ordering for that week is 3pm on Tuesday 15th September. This will be another step towards normal for the children, who we know enjoy their hot school lunches. If you have not already created an account to order meals for your child/ren, please go to [www.hotschoolmeals.com](http://www.hotschoolmeals.com) where you will be able to register and order lunches. If you have any problems setting up a meal account for your child, please email or phone The Farm Kitchen. [enquiries@thefarmkitchen.com](mailto:enquiries@thefarmkitchen.com) / 01529 460821.

### **CASPRA**

You may have seen our tent shelter that we now have on the school field, and we have two more ready to go up soon. These have kindly been donated to us by CASPRA (Castor and Ailsworth Sports and Recreation Association). I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their kindness. The tents, along with the benches donated by Friends in the summer make it much easier to have the children outside, and much more enjoyable for them to be there.

I can imagine the children will sleep well tonight and they have certainly earned a rest this weekend.

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine.

Kind regards,

Mr Nick Brompton  
Headteacher