



Audlem St. James C.E. Primary School

Let your light shine'



Matthew 5:16

12th March 2021

Audlem St James CE Primary School
Whole School Together Again

I just thought I would share with you my thoughts as we enter our first full week at school. It has been an absolute pleasure to have all the children back in school. To see them engaging in lessons discussing reasoning in Maths and working through some of the exciting new class books in English has been lovely. The work that the children are already producing across school shows a real determination to succeed. I believe in this quote below:

"Our job at school is to support you and your children. We will endeavour to instil that anything is possible through the way that we nurture the whole child and that their dreams can come true."

We are extremely proud of our 'firm and sincere conviction' that every pupil can, and will, succeed. I know that we live in an ever-changing society due to COVID 19 but at our school we are committed to creating a safe, enjoyable, stimulating and creative environment for all of our children to flourish in.

Our staff, Governors and families work together to strive to ensure that the primary years are a positive, rewarding experience for all of our children and we all learn together in a caring Christian community

Thought of the Week

Recent months have taught us a great deal about **what a school really is.**



This sense of Community and Living Well Together is at the heart of our vision for education, and as we prepared to welcome all our pupils back this last week, we wanted you to know

'the school is a community that enables everyone to flourish together.'



At the current time, all we can do is keep to the advice given by the Government that we must wash hands, wear face masks and ensure we give people space.

Important reminders - social distancing and arrival times

Please remember the social distancing rule when dropping your child off at school. We are aware that arriving and leaving promptly at your child's set time is difficult if you have two or more children **but could everybody else please keep to the allocated times**, especially when bringing children to school at 8.45 or 9.00 am. We have identified the beginning of the school day as the most difficult time when adults are most likely to be congregating on the premises.



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These rules have been introduced to keep the children, staff and parents safe and we very much appreciate your help. Unfortunately, it has come to my attention that some children are taking part in before or after school play dates. This will jeopardise the children returning to school and the school remaining open. The Key dates that were released by the government are below:

Changes on 29 March

Social contact: The evidence shows that it is safer for people to meet outdoors rather than indoors. And this is why from 29 March, when most schools start to break up for the Easter holidays, outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people (the Rule of 6) or 2 households will also be allowed, making it easier for friends and families to meet outside.

Business and activities: Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis and basketball courts, and open-air swimming pools, will also be allowed to reopen, and people will be able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports.

Travel: The 'stay at home' rule will end on 29 March but many restrictions will remain in place. People should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible, avoiding travel at the busiest times and routes. Travel abroad will continue to be prohibited, other than for a small number of permitted reasons. Holidays abroad will not be allowed, given it will remain important to manage the risk of imported variants and protect the vaccination programme. The government has launched a new taskforce to review global travel which will report on 12 April.

Step 2 - not before 12 April

Business and activities: Step 2, which will be no earlier than 12 April, will see the opening of non-essential retail; personal care premises such as hairdressers and nail salons; and public buildings, including libraries and community centres. Indoor leisure facilities such as gyms will also reopen (but only for use by people on their own or in household groups); as will most outdoor attractions and settings including outdoor hospitality venues, zoos, theme parks, and drive-in cinemas. Self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets, where indoor facilities are not shared with other households, can also reopen. Hospitality venues will be allowed to serve people outdoors at Step 2 and there will be no need for customers to order a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks and no curfew, although customers must order, eat and drink while seated ('table service'). Wider social contact rules will apply in all these settings to prevent indoor mixing between different households.

Events: While funerals can continue with up to 30 mourners, the number of people able to attend weddings, receptions and commemorative events such as wakes will rise to 15.

Step 3 - not before 17 May

Social contact: As part of Step 3, no earlier than 17 May, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances. This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply - we will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.

As soon as possible and by no later than Step 3, we will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including hugging. But until this point, people should continue to keep their distance from anyone not in their household or support bubble.

Business and activities: Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen - and as in Step 2, venues will not have to serve a substantial meal with alcoholic drinks; nor will there be a curfew. Customers will, however, have to order, eat and drink while seated.

Other indoor locations to open up in Step 3 include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).



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Events: Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

Review of social distancing: Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home - which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

Step 4 - not before 21 June

Social contact: By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

Successful Well-Being Friday last week

We have had reports that children had a wonderful day of creative and relaxing activities on Well-being Friday. Thank you to the teachers for circulating ideas and to parents for carrying them out with their children.

Praise Book Children

This week's Praise Book children are:



Mrs Maughan and Mrs Burgess' Class - Arabella Goodwin for being polite and showing kindness to her friends coming back into school this week

Mrs Kemp and Mrs Hayward's Class - Arrietty Graham for settling in so well to her new school

Mrs Richardson and Mrs Smith's Class - Caleb Bowen-Jones for demonstrating commitment to writing at length

Mr Davies' Class - Seth Minshall for settling in and adapting to new routines

Miss Morris's Class - Charlie Furber for showing outstanding maturity on the playground and inspiring his classmates with his sensible and calm behaviour.

Mr Blenkiron's Class - Will Goodwin for excellent comprehension in maths; using his understanding of multiplication and fractions to calculate the light-fittings vs the ceiling tiles in the classroom, before reducing this to its simplest form ($21/189$ or $1/9$ in case you're interested)

Mrs Bird's Class - Isaac Minshall and Jacob Graham who have made a wonderful start to our school. They have both been very diligent and have shown readiness to learn.

You are all amazing Shining Stars!



The 5 'R's

As a school we are concentrating on the 5 'R's - **resilience, reflectiveness, responsibility, resourcefulness and readiness to learn.** These are the children who have shown such qualities this week:

Resilience: **Alexander Hodson** for showing resilience with his cursive handwriting; **Louie Elliott** for not giving up in English lessons when spelling tricky words; **Maisie Baker** for always trying her best; **the whole of Y3** for showing resilience when settling back in to school and always being ready to learn; **Lincoln Howell** for resilience in his art when he painted his own Day of the Dead mask;

Reflectiveness: **Maddison Wood** for reading her work, reflecting upon it and adding improvements; **Roksana Babula** for writing a thoughtful diary entry as a Jewish pilgrim; **Kate Sullivan** for some good reflection on her art.



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Responsibility: **Rose Carter** for working hard to organise her resources in class; **Jessica Baddeley** for organising her reading diary and recording her reading sensibly in class

Resourcefulness: **Austin Wright** for using the resources in the classroom to help him to work independently.

Readiness to Learn: **Alyssa Welch Harding** for enthusiasm for learning and for always applying herself readily to tasks; **Emma Kay** and **Freya Murfin** who, even after several weeks of home-learning, haven't let their dedication to presentation slip, producing exemplary layouts for their maths work; **Heidi Woods** for remembering a lot of her maths.

School

Amethyst Class This week in Amethyst Class we have read the story *Spinderella* by Julia Donaldson. We have written a sentence about her, practised our cursive handwriting and made our own spider crafts. In maths, we have been looking at pattern and 3D shape. We have learnt some of the properties of a cylinder, cuboid, cone and triangular prism. We have also continued our Read Write Inc phonics lessons and enjoyed a PE lesson with Northwest coaching.

Sapphire Class Mrs Kemp and I are so proud of Sapphire class this week. It has been lovely to welcome all the children back to school. Everyone has come back with a fantastic attitude and ready to learn. In English the children have been learning about past tense verbs and applying them to their sentences. In maths the children have been impressing us with their skills at counting in 2's. In science as part of our British science week investigation, the children have been tasting irregular shaped fruit and vegetables to find out if the shape affects the taste.

Pearl Class Pearl Class took part in the Growth Project this week. This project provides a supportive space to think about and explore children's feelings. The activities invited them to explore their roots, environment and how they can grow together with others as a metaphor for personal growth. We went on a journey through nature; we reflect on the past, we feel nurtured in the present, and flourish in the future. This week is British Science Week and on Thursday we carried out an investigation to find out whether appearance of fruit and vegetables affects taste. The children came up with the question 'Do wonky fruit and vegetables taste as good as perfect fruit and vegetables?' We looked at wonky fruit and vegetables and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of these. The children designed an investigation with a clear aim, prediction, method, results and conclusion. To our surprise many of the children preferred the taste of the wonky fruits and vegetables! The children are making posters for homework this week to enter the British Science Week competition.

Amber Class It has been lovely to welcome the children back to Amber Class this week. We have continued the work we started during our home learning sessions, continuing to read *This Morning I Met a Whale* (Michael Morpurgo) and beginning to look at the inspiration for our writing this half term, *Big Blue Whale* (Nicola Davies). Our maths work has continued with measurement of length and we have been comparing, adding and subtracting different lengths with different units of measure. We have also been concentrating on developing our creative talents this week. We have developed our understanding of colour theory and used our understanding of the primary, secondary and tertiary colours to replicate the work of Georges Seurat. We have also used our learning of the life cycle of a flowering plant to produce work that represent both the growth of a plant from a bean as well as our own growth mindset.

Emerald Class This week, Emerald class have all been absolute shining superstars! They have worked at their new fractions topic in maths with enthusiasm. In English, we wrote descriptions of 'the place between' and the children used a variety of prepositions and conjunctions. The class worked on a paper tree sculpture for our wellbeing lesson - the growth project. Additionally, they portrayed themselves as Ancient Greek warriors in patterns on their Greek Urn paintings. For R.E. the children role played a pilgrimage to Israel and placed prayers on the wailing wall. They then wrote diary entries in character as Jewish pilgrims who took a trip to Jerusalem. They began their new PE sessions relating to Hockey.

Ruby Class In Maths this week, Ruby Class have begun our unit on fractions. We have looked at fractions in real life, reminded ourselves about the functions of the numerator and denominator, and have started to look at what fractions are equivalent to each other. In English, we have been identifying the key features in an engaging diary entry by analysing Hades' recount of meeting Hercules in Olympus. We have also continued to read *Odd & The Frost Giants* to find out how Loki, Odin and Thor got turned into a fox, eagle and bear. In Science, we have been looking at the parts of a chicken egg. We have discussed the difference between fertilised eggs and the eggs we find in shops; the lives of battery vs free-range chickens, and also considered the philosophical quandary of 'Which came first, the chicken or the egg?'



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In History, we have met the Greek gods; researched interesting facts about them on the internet and written manifestos for them in case they decide to democratically elect a new ruler instead of Zeus.

In PE, we have begun a unit on cricket. We have practised the correct way to catch and have started to learn how to bat. For our wellbeing Growth Project, we went outside to visit the large oak tree and discussed the proverb 'Great oaks from little acorns grow.' The children thought about how this applies to themselves and their ideas and ambitions. We then created acorns out of clay ("claycorns...") with space inside for a small symbol of their hopes for the future, which will eventually burst forth like a giant oak tree!

Diamond Class This week in Year 6, we have started our growth project by taking photographs and integrating them with images of things which helped us during lockdown. We have also started to learn about the work of Charles Darwin and mapped out his journey to the Galapagos Islands, as well as learning lots of new words related to evolution along the way. We have also been revising key vocabulary in maths and French and in Science, we have carried out a chromatography experiment to see if green is really green!

Friends of Audlem School

The poster below gives details of an Easter Competition with a closing date of 27 March 2021.



Finally

It is important that our newsletter and all other forms of communication we send out to parents and carers, give you a clear and detailed picture of our work in school, so that you are kept up to date with events in school and our community. If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions about the content of newsletters please get in touch with me.

A.Perry.