



SLINGSBY C.P. SCHOOL NEWSLETTER Thursday 21st May 2020

Slingsby C.P. School
The Green
Slingsby
North Yorkshire
YO62 4AA
(01653) 628370

Head Teacher:
Mrs G Metcalfe
BA HONS NPQH

Governors' update on school re-opening

The Governors would like to thank the many parents who have been in touch to thank Mrs Metcalfe and her staff for all they are doing to carefully consider and prepare for future re-opening of the school. It is so good to know we have your support as we navigate the many demands now being made on us in terms of risk assessments, re-organisation of schoolrooms, provision of new facilities, and development of new protocols.

We do understand that there are different opinions about the levels of risk to children and families circulating in the media, but it is important to state that we do *not* have a choice about how we re-open school. We *must* follow a series of very strict guidelines which we will be asking you to help us implement. We note that the government has now announced it is in 'listening mode', especially given the advice of the British Medical Association not to rush towards an arbitrary date of re-opening. We are told that further guidance will be issued for Governors at the end of this week and we will be studying it closely.

In the meantime, may we please remind everyone about the need to observe school policies relating to all forms of communication, in writing and on social media and to 'think before you type'. We understand that this has been a challenging time for many families, but please don't forget that staff and governors are individuals and have families, too. In particular, we would like to correct a statement currently circulating that Mrs Metcalfe has been seen in the village, waving to children. This is absolutely not the case, since she has not left her village since lockdown. However, we do know that her regular video messages and those of other staff are being greatly appreciated by many of you, and we appreciate the very supportive and positive messages we have also received this week.

School News

- All the staff wish to thank you for the hugely supportive response we have received with regard to school reopening and the incredibly difficult decisions having to be made. As many of you appreciate, we are having to absorb, understand and apply daily Government and Local Authority advice which is ever changing. Mrs Metcalfe and the senior team continue to work closely together with Local Authority advisors, local Head Teacher colleagues and Governors to try to do the utmost we possibly can for our school and wider community whilst managing much uncertainty. We hope that it goes without saying that we have our children's best interests at heart and we miss them greatly. We continue to do absolutely everything we can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone.
- We empathise with many of your concerns and we must all respect that everyone has a different view based upon their own personal experiences which vary greatly. It is very easy to jump on issues that are raised in news reports, between friends and on social media, but we ask that you ***think before you type*** and be kind. We ask that confrontational communications are not sent to school as these can easily be misconstrued and rarely achieve the intended outcome. These types of communications will be acknowledged but discussions will not be entered into. All of our decision making is based upon the facts and advice presented to us by qualified sources, not speculation or hearsay, and decisions cannot be

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT WE ARE A **NUT-FREE SCHOOL**.
WE KINDLY REQUEST **NO NUTS OR NUT DERIVATIVES ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL IN PACKED LUNCHES OR AS SNACKS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

We are all guided by the Slingsby Values for Life: Respect, Honesty, Resilience, Expectations and Caring for Others

taken lightly when we have the precious lives of our children and staff in our hands. We are all doing the very best we can in unprecedented times.

- Many of you have confirmed you will not be sending your children back to school before September. Please be reassured there will be no negative consequences or fines and school work will continue to be provided by the teachers online.
- Our current aim is that we may be able to open school for those in the priority groups who wish to attend (Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and key worker children) in mid-June but this will be subject to the local R-rate, the approval of a rigorous Risk Assessment, preparation of classrooms and the wider school building, the delivery of sanitising equipment, PPE, duplicate resources for all the separate groups, catering supplies, installation of hand sanitiser stations and teacher training (which will take place on 1st & 2nd June), to name but a few! Please be mindful that there is a huge amount of work needed to ensure our school complies with the new Government requirements and we will not be able to open until it does. We will provide you with more specific details of our plans as soon as we can.
- Thank you also to those families who have kept us informed when they believe they have contracted Covid-19. Of-course with the lack of testing to date some cannot be sure, but it is helpful for us to have an idea of how many in our school community have been affected and we are thankful that everyone we know has recovered. This information is of course confidential.
- Mrs Metcalfe has thoroughly enjoyed receiving the stream of letters, videos and pictures from the children which is also passed on to their teachers. We hope you have been enjoying their replies and videos! Please keep them coming. The tik-tok films have been very entertaining and Mrs Metcalfe particularly enjoyed Dexter's yoga video, but just wishes she was a little more flexible and could do the moves like Dexter's mum!
- A rumour has been circulated on social media that Mrs Metcalfe was seen in Slingsby and had waved to some children in their house. This is categorically untrue as Mrs Metcalfe remains at home and has been throughout lockdown as per Government guidelines. May we please remind you to be careful what you write on social media and 'think before you type'.
- Our teachers are still assisting with the local Hub schools for the key worker children and have learnt a lot from their experiences which will prove invaluable in helping us at our school moving forward.
- Next week is half term therefore new work will not be provided on the website to encourage everyone to have a break. The teachers know from their communications with parents and pupils that many haven't done all the work provided to date which is absolutely no problem as it is only there as a guide and we know from your emails that you have been very busy doing other fantastic projects and adventures. If, however, you would like work during half term the teachers have suggested that children go back through all the work provided on the website and the many educational links and have a go at something you may not have tackled yet or delve deeper into a topic you have particularly enjoyed. Most importantly enjoy the sunshine and keep safe.
- Next week the school office will not be open and emails will not be answered unless in an emergency. Staff will be focusing on transitional changes ahead of reopening. We will contact you via the T2P App or email as and when there are any urgent updates regarding school.



Parent Pay Accounts – Please pay your account or let us know if you can't

There remains a debt of **£221.50** on Parent Pay. Please notify us if you are unable to pay your accounts at admin@slingsby.n-yorks.sch.uk.



FOSS

EASY FUNDRAISING - Don't forget to shop through the Easy Fundraising app. It's a simple way to raise funds for the school. There are lots of popular businesses that you can shop with including Waitrose, John Lewis,

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M&S, H&M, Selfridges, Waterstones, eBay, Amazon and Argos. The Easy Fundraising app will take you straight to that business's website and you can then shop normally. Easy Fundraising will then donate a percentage of your spend straight to Slingsby School.



Young Minds Helpline

For any young people struggling with the impact of coronavirus or self- isolation the Young Minds charity has a Parent Helpline open Mon- Fri 9am to 4pm 0808 802 5544.



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