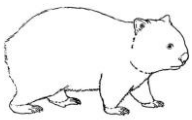
Homework –

Friday 4th September 2020



Miss Cartwright

Dear Parent/Carer

How very strange to think that the last time I wrote a homework front page (March 13th) I was talking about a new virus that was '***disrupting the way of life of people all over the world.***' In that homework front page, I informed parents that the school was cancelling trips for the foreseeable future – and I can remember thinking at the time what a big decision that was, and I hoped that parents wouldn't be too cross!

We are back. And we are collectively taking a deep breath and starting again. Life is different and I'm sure that life will be different for years to come. This period has seen the best and the worst of our society: I'm sure we can all remember how people took care of each other at the beginning of Lockdown and how people showed concern for their neighbours and everyone they came in contact with… but we have also seen the terrible behaviour of some members of society deciding that lockdown rules didn't apply to them (even if they helped to construct the rules), people littering beaches and beauty spots because they couldn't be bothered to take litter home with them and so on. Self-consciously, we as a school have decided to tweak our curriculum to put greater emphasis on children learning to love the world, to take care of themselves and to take a responsible approach to life – these are qualities needed for the future.

Through Lockdown, this school responded to the needs of its community very successfully. We were amongst the highest performing schools in terms of numbers of children we had in, and we opened to all children in June – unlike many schools. We also had the complete support of our community which was wonderful to see – something that has helped us to transition to the September restart successfully.

On a final note, there has been a lot of chatter in the papers about what a disaster this event has been for children in terms of their education and how they are all months behind and so on – and I want to say that what we have seen is children returning to school full of enthusiasm and getting on well. I honestly see the lockdown period as a time of opportunity for many children (bearing in mind that I have a child in Nursery and one in Reception) I didn't spend my time drilling phonics, grammar and maths into my children – but we talked a lot, grew vegetables, went on walks, baked cakes and bread: we had a ***different sort of education***. Please don't believe everything you read about this being a disaster for children – I think we all made sure that children had gains as well as losses.

We will be reporting to parents after a few weeks about where children are academically, and we will report again later in the term so that parents can see how their children are doing. We are very pleased with the start to the term, so please don't worry: we all know that children are the most resilient and resourceful of all of us.

Please use the comment box below to write anything you have to say about the homework or about any other school issues…

Signed:

Please make sure that your child's medical details and emergency contact numbers are with the office and up-to-date.