



Essendon C of E (VC) Primary School

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works

Newsletter: 5th June 2020

Dear Essendon families ...

I can't tell you how nice it has been to finally have some classes of children back in the school this week, and to start feeling like we're making our first steps back towards normality. I have been lucky enough to spend time getting to know the children in Homewood this week, and you'll see some pictures of their work further down. Next week, I will be making visits to meet the Pantherswood and Harefield children, and we'll include pictures of what they've been doing in the next newsletter. Those of you who have been into school will know that things are still a little different from normal, but our "bubble" classes have been functioning very well and the children have been enjoying walking through the maze of barrier tape to get to the school entrance. It has been lovely for me to begin meeting both pupils and parents at the school gate in the mornings, and we are very much looking forward to greeting more children back into the school soon.

You'll notice some differences to the newsletter this week. This is due to the rather unusual situation of dual-track teaching we now find ourselves in, with some children working at home and others working at school. So, for example, it's not really fair to continue with the engagement ratings for each class any more. For the same reason, you should also expect to see a few changes to the online provision on Seesaw rolling out soon, such as our new "Find Out Fridays", which will begin next week. More details will follow in next week's collective worship!

I'd also like to say a huge thanks to the school staff and governors, who have all been going over-and-above the call of duty day-in and day-out in order to get the school re-opened. The collective effort of will has been immense and I am once again overwhelmed by the amazing team spirit that makes me very proud to have been given the opportunity to take charge of such a wonderful school. Have a great weekend.

With love and best wishes, Mr Potter

This half term, our value is:



Community support

Essendon residents are continuing to offer support to those feeling isolated and anxious due to the coronavirus outbreak. Please feel free to call them on **07442499601** if you:

- Feel lonely or anxious
- Need practical help e.g. Shopping
- Just for a chat

Kindly Note: We are not medically trained. We are fellow villagers so please do not call us if:

- It is a medical emergency - call 999
- Need medical advice - call NHS 111

If you would like to help out with this service, please contact Vicky Craig.

Healthy minds network

For non-judgemental support and advice on mental health, you can visit <https://www.hertsmindnetwork.org/young-peoples-helpline> or call **01923 256391**.

Governor view

I was feeling very challenged this week when I wanted to drop something off at school and was greeted by the one-way system, ready and waiting for me, as I tried to negotiate my way to the entrance. My curiosity got the better of me as I followed the trail, using the clearly marked signs, and was pleased to receive a warm but safely distanced welcome from a smiling staff member. I felt I had really achieved something and risen to the challenge! Once across the threshold it was a real joy to see the school, as we all know it, looking very much the same, very clean and shiny and with lots of lovely signs to remind me that I can keep myself and others safe by following some simple rules. Having had a guided tour of the classrooms I could see that despite all the changes made to keep us safe, so many important elements remain the same. It was good to feel welcomed back and to see so much that was familiar.

Until then, enjoy your times together and stay safe!

Katie Bedi, chair of Governors



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Well done to all this week's star learners!

Pantherswood:

Carter for his determination and resilience when taking part in the Essendon PE challenges.

Evie for her amazing cornflour gloop experiment.

Ralph for his detailed explanations when demonstrating to his friends how to make cement.

Homewood

Dimitri for some brilliant maths work about capacity and volume.

Sammy and Tegan for great teamwork in gathering resources together, planning and making their bubble wand.

Warrenwood:

Erin and Ruben for their excellent engagement across the full curriculum.

Harefield

Annalise for brilliant use of tone during Art.

Harry, Emily and Angelo for settling back into school routine so well and working super hard on converting fractions, decimals and percentages.

Photos from our learning this week!

This week we're showcasing what Homewood have been doing on their return to school. Watch this space for photos from Harefield and Pantherswood next week!

