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Monday 20th April 2020

Alder Class – Summer First-Half Term

Dear Parents and Year Sixes,

A very warm 'hello' after what I trust has been a safe, happy and healthy Easter holiday break for you and your family. This is a start to a term such as I have never before had as a teacher, nor one that I ever imagined to have. While it feels very strange – even a bit sad – not to be in the classroom welcoming you all back, there is also some sense of excitement as I begin to teach in a whole new way; as you begin to learn in a whole new way. *Is this the future taking shape in front of us?*

I would like to begin by saying a huge well done to the Year Sixes. They had already worked so hard and were making excellent progress. If the (dreaded) SATs were still taking place, I am in no doubt that they were ready. There were many questions from the class during our last few days, before the early school closure, such as 'how will you know how we have done this year?' and 'how will our High School know which sets to place us in?' While this is a time of great uncertainty, I can be sure of knowing how each Year Six has 'performed' academically, physically and socially over the course of the two terms we have completed. As one of the pupils pointed out, we have a box full of practice tests in the classroom! We have worked hard in Year Six: we have filled up more than half of our Topic books (proof that it's not all about the SATs at Cawston) with some excellent history, geography and art work. We have had a fun and engaging days as Egyptians, wartime evacuees at Gressenhall and Plants v. Zombies; we have learnt circus skills, skipping skills and tricks and enjoyed many P.E. lessons; we have walked the infants to St. Agnes for Harvest, quietly reflected in the school *Soul Space* and explored Christianity Around the World; the class have observed, measured, investigated and recorded in Science lessons and, perhaps most importantly, we have chatted, had some good jokes and laughed together.

My aim is for more excellent and engaging learning to take place, albeit remotely. Please see the school website: there is a new Home Learning tab. I will be placing daily and weekly learning there (within Alder Class), as well as e-mailing it (further details on the reverse). Our Topic for this half-term is **A Time to Shine: Shakespeare and Theatre**. Please find attached a new Topic web (outlining the home-learning that will be covered) and a new Homework web. The Year Sixes need to complete home-learning in the books that were sent home and continue to complete homework in their homework book OR online and send it to me. I would love to see evidence of their work, please do e-mail me (any questions or to show me your learning) and I will get back to you. Let's stay connected!

I look forward to being able to support your child's learning remotely. Please do use this as an opportunity to keep their minds focused, ready for high school, as well as time to learn new hobbies and skills.

Kind regards,

Mrs D. Dafforn

Alder Class Teacher

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Home Learning Tasks

I will add a weekly timetable on to the website with an overview of:

- daily learning tasks
- Topic-based weekly learning tasks

Daily Learning Tasks

These will cover skills and activities that are important to do every day - reading, writing and maths. Some suggestions for daily learning tasks will be placed onto the weekly timetable while core tasks will be posted daily.

Weekly Topic-based Learning Tasks

Each week, a few topic-based Learning Tasks will be available - fun and engaging learning activities from the wider curriculum. They should aim to do one of these tasks each day. Learning Tasks have been planned to be a mixture of activities your child can 'get on with' independently and some which may require more adult support. I have planned tasks which require minimal resources and that are easy to complete at home.

All home-learning will be posted onto this page as well as e-mailed to all parents by a Friday afternoon, ready for the next week. You will be able to print off the work or simply complete it in one of your Home Learning Books. The answers will be available for the English and Maths work, so get your parents to check.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your child during these exceptional circumstances. Should you require any further information or advice, please email me or office@cawstonprimary.dneat.org and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Mrs Dafforn