



Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to an unexpectedly early finish to the spring term for many of our children, I would like to thank you all for your patience and offers of support in these times of uncertainty. We are still not certain how long the school will be open only for those children who absolutely need to attend, however, we can always be contacted on [adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk](mailto:adminoffice@durley.hants.sch.uk) for a response through the admin team or myself. We are currently working on providing work online after the Easter break if it should become necessary. Please can I remind children that will be joining us next week to bring your revision pack as you will be undertaking the same work as the children who are at home, and Year 6 will need their revision guides.

A huge thank you to our teaching and admin staff who have worked tirelessly this week with organising learning packs and keeping you all up to date.

This afternoon we have had a short Easter service in the school hall. I am very grateful to our assistant priest Rev. Richard Wharton for joining us. Today we have sent home Tea lights and a prayer as the church of England are suggesting that on Sunday at 7:00pm everyone puts a light in their window and says a prayer for our world. Holy Cross church is now closed for services, but will be open every Sunday morning for drop-in private prayer from 9:30-11:30am. Please feel free to pop in.

Whilst it seems quite frustrating that we have had to cancel many of our end of term events, I was delighted that the music exams went ahead. The children did exceptionally well with all those who entered passing in Grade 1 Trumpet/Cornet and Grade 2 Descant Recorder.

## **Brecon**

The children in years 5 and 6 had a wonderful time in the Brecon Beacons last week. In groups, the children experienced caving, canoeing and mountain walking under the excellent supervision of the Hampshire Mountain Centre staff. Their home for the week had stunning views of the Brecon Beacons including Pen y Fan and Corn Du and children climbed the nearby Fan Frynych and Craig y Fan Du where the temperature was a chilling  $-9$  at the peak! In the caves, children discovered bats, fossils which were millions of years old and a selection of stalagmites and stalactites. Children navigated through tight limestone passages including the infamous tight squeezes namely the "Toilet" and "Postbox". Whilst canoeing along Brecon canal, children were able to soak up the beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

The unpredictable weather added to the challenge to make this residential experience one year 5 and 6 children will never forget: hail, rain, snow and 50 miles per hour winds all in the space of 20 minutes. Despite these testing conditions, all children relished the challenges set for them and Durley staff were thrilled to see the grit, determination and resilience shown by all the children. This was frequently commented on by the Hampshire Mountain Centre Staff who commended their efforts across the week. We are extremely grateful for the Mountain Centre's support throughout the week including sizing up children and adults for waterproofs, boots and safety equipment and ensuring they were warm and comfortable at all times.

Of course this visit would not have been possible without the support of Miss Baldwin, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Paul (Vice-Chair of governors) and led by Mr Male, who gave up their own time to ensure that all children were safe, supported and had a fantastic visit to Wales. The children cannot wait to share with you the photos and videos of their visit at a later date: watch this space...

## **DSA**

The DSA have kindly given each child the gift of a packet of seeds (donated by Hilliers) as an activity for your children while they are away from school. Thank you for the generous donations of Easter Eggs for the Spring fayre. We have made over £100 from the tombola and the egg sale on the playground.

We will continue to keep in touch through email and texts over the coming weeks.

Best wishes - Kirstie Baines Headteacher