



Halebank C of E Primary School
Heathview Road
WIDNES
Cheshire
WA8 8UZ



Headteacher: Mr R Harley

Telephone number: 0151 425 5798

Thursday, 21st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are looking after one another and that you are all in good health. I also hope that you are managing to stay positive, despite the many challenges we are all facing.

Preparations for the Wider Opening of Schools

If you're keeping up to date with the latest developments in the news, you will know that schools are being asked to prepare for the return of some groups of pupils. The guidance provided to schools by the Department for Education (DfE) identifies pupils in **Reception, Year 1** and **Year 6** as the year groups that schools should plan for.

Staff and governors are currently working together to develop a robust risk assessment and an operational plan to help the school work towards this wider opening. There are many factors to consider in order to make the school as safe as possible. As soon as we have worked through the process of planning for the return of these groups of pupils, I will be in a position to share with you how we intend to run the school day and what arrangements we will be putting into place. We plan to organise the children in teaching groups of no more than 15 and each group or 'bubble' will work, learn and play separately from the others. Being a small school, we are fortunate in that our cohort numbers are already less than 15; this will make managing the bubbles a little easier than some of the larger schools.

However, the 'school day' as we know it will be quite different when we do return. We will need to rearrange staffing and make changes to teaching areas and classroom organisation, movement around the school, break and lunchtimes, and drop off/pick up routines. At this point, it would help the school greatly if we had some idea of numbers. If parents of pupils in **Reception, Year 1** and **Year 6** could let me know if they intend to send their children into school by emailing me with a simple response of 'yes', 'no' or 'not sure', this would support the school with its planning. Please send your responses to head.halebank@halton.gov.uk by **Monday, 25th May**. This information would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Please note that there is no date set for the return of pupils and it will **not be before Monday, 8th June**. The return of pupils remains conditional and schools will only start to re-open if the government's 'five key tests' are met. The next review of current restrictions and 'lockdown' measures is expected to take place on Thursday, 28th May and I will write to you after this to notify you of the detailed plans we have developed. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions, please email me and I will get back to you as soon as I can. I appreciate that there are difficult decisions ahead for some of you and I can only reassure you that the staff team here will do its utmost to make the school as safe as possible given the current situation.

Home Learning

Staff are continuing to set home learning activities which are available for you and your child to work through each week. As this would have been the final week of the half term, the next set of activities will be posted on class pages on **Monday, 1st June**. Keep in touch with your child's class teacher using the email addresses below and do continue to send pictures of the lovely work that you are doing at home.



Mrs Griffin-Jones: Class1@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Draper: Class2@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Eley: Class3@halebank.halton.sch.uk
Mrs Bennett: Class4@halebank.halton.sch.uk

Thank You

Yesterday was *National Thank a Teacher Day* and I think you ought to give yourselves a pat on the back for all the great things you have achieved at home as teachers. Thank you so much for everything you're doing to keep your child engaged with his/her learning.

Collective Worship with Rev Roland

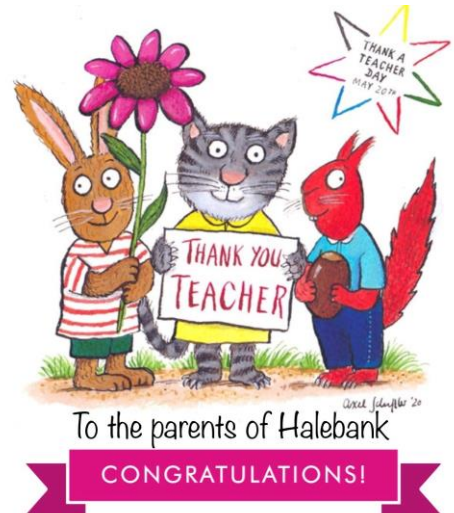
Rev Roland has posted his latest collective worship session for us on [YouTube](#). The theme this week is 'Don't judge others' and it can be viewed by clicking [here](#). Thanks to Roland for his continued hard work and support.

On behalf of the staff team, I would like to send you our love and best wishes in these most challenging of times. We look forward to working with you again whenever it is safe to return to school. If you have any concerns or questions, please do send me an email at head.halebank@halton.gov.uk. If you need to contact the school office, Mrs Fenlon can be reached at sec.halebank@halton.gov.uk.

In the meantime, stay safe and look after yourselves ☺

Yours sincerely

Richard Harley
Mr R Harley



To the parents of Halebank
CONGRATULATIONS!
You have received a
thank you
message from someone who thinks you are doing a
great job!