



Building a Legacy

2 September 2020

Dear Parent

Hello and welcome back!

We've all been through so much in the past five months or so, but this week sees our school return to something akin to normality - we hope. Let's really focus on respecting each other, following the guidelines that are in place and remembering that a safe return depends on everyone working together. Whatever our personal perspectives are, they really need to be set aside for the collective good at the moment.

Essentially, we hope that by enforcing our procedures strictly and consistently now, we may find that certain relaxations can follow. I can certainly report that the staggered starting times are working - and today was the first big test in the rain, so thank you!

I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your understanding, support and patience during the lockdown months. I also want to express my thanks to the whole staff at Andrews for their unwavering commitment to the school and for providing a full learning programme accessible to all families throughout lockdown. Also for their support for the children of our key workers. We are in the process of reviewing this programme and developing the next stage, as it will be important to prepare for further home learning as the year progresses.

As most of you know, my personal lockdown experience was dominated by being off ill from late April, so it is especially appropriate that I publicly thank you all for keeping the AMPS family secure. I am, of course, indebted to Mr John Sandford for stepping up to lead the school during my absence, as well as to Mrs Rosalyn Van Giesen and Mrs Alison Bovill, the other members of our Leadership Team, for their perseverance and support.

Mrs Morrison and Mr Dugan have also been on hand to follow-up on leadership decisions and to assist in the preparation for our restart. We all owe them a huge thank you.

Please continue to follow us on our social media platforms and through our website. Communication is vital for the effective running of a school at any time; I'm sure I don't need to elaborate on its increased significance at the moment. While all the 'noise' pervades the media, we remain committed to our approach of taking stock, making decisions and sticking to them. And telling you about them promptly and accurately.

Our principal aim as we reintegrate our children back to school is everyone's pastoral care and wellbeing. Thus, PERMA remains as relevant now as it has done these past few years.

Wishing you a safe and smooth return to school, and a successful new year.

Kind regards

Ralph Magee

POSITIVITY ENGAGEMENT RELATIONSHIPS MEANING ACHIEVEMENT

Principal : Ralph W Magee BSc MA PGCE PQH(NI)
4 Ballygowan Road, Comber, Co. Down, BT23 5PG Tel: 028 9187 2075
email: rmagee333@c2kni.net www.andrewsmps.com @AndrewsMPS