



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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Dear Parents/Carers

We are reaching the end of another unprecedented, and ultimately historic, term at Harriers. This term has thrown everything at us! We started back on Monday 4th January being told schools would be staying open; by that evening we were closed and in a lockdown. This threw up challenges for us all, be it at school or at home, but the response from staff, pupils and families has been amazing! As a result, we have been able to deliver our curriculum remotely to the vast majority of our pupils. Over the past couple of weeks I have 'visited' every class on Seesaw and I have been bowled over by the quality of the content provided and the commitment to make it as tailored and engaging as possible. The only thing that has impressed me further has been the response by the vast majority of our pupils (and families!) who have worked so hard this term.

Thank you to all parents/carers and other family members who have done so much to support your child's learning this term. We have worked hard to tailor our provision, provide devices and paper packs to support access and be on the end of the phone/Seesaw/Tapestry when help was needed. We could not, however, have delivered our curriculum if you had not been providing all of your support at home.

It is vitally important that everyone has a good rest next week. I know there isn't a huge amount we can all go and do, but we should relax and take a break from work and our screens. We realise that this is another week stuck at home for some children so we do want to provide some content if you wish to access it. Staff will be sharing this via Seesaw and it is all optional, although we really would urge children to keep reading and practicing their times tables (on Times Tables Rock Stars)... we are teachers after all!

It has been a tough few weeks for everyone, and we are still here to support you over the half term break if you need us. We want teachers to have a break, so they will not be contactable via Seesaw, but you may contact us via the office email office@harriers-aspirations.org. This will be checked periodically. If you need response urgently, please contact me on principal@harriers-aspirations.org or, if it is to do with welfare or safeguarding, you may contact Mrs Hawkins on nhawkins@harriers-aspirations.org.

Our Community Cupboard (in the bike shed outside the office) has been available for anyone who has needed some extra food over this difficult time. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has donated food, which includes families of pupils, friends of the school, staff and family and friends of staff. We know this provision has been gratefully used by many families and are delighted to confirm that this will continue to be available every day of the half term holidays, simply come and help yourself.

The government has confirmed that all schools will be closed to all pupils, including Key Workers and Vulnerable, over the break. Harriers will reopen to Key Workers and Vulnerable pupils on Monday 22nd February; please only attend if you have had a confirmed place this term. Remote learning will restart on this date for all other pupils. We know this will be the case until 8th March 2021 at the earliest. I believe the Prime Minister will provide an update on 22nd February, and we will hear it first then, along with the rest of you.

The school site will be busy over the break, as it has been all term. We have already made some exciting changes and additions to the nursery garden and we are having a canopy installed outside Year 1 to enhance our outdoor provision. We look forward to sharing photos with you as soon as possible.




Aspirations – Company Registration Number: 07867577
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I think we should all be proud of how, as a school community, we have coped with such a difficult term. I hope all of you have a lovely, restful break and I have my fingers crossed that the news on the 22nd February will tell us that we can safely welcome you all back in the not too distant future.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Pearson', with a small flourish at the end.

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal