

Longhoughton CE Primary School starts a new school year



For regular readers of The Bridge magazine you might have noticed that the articles from Longhoughton CE Primary School have been missing for a few months. Well we are back! We have never been very far away but pandemic meant life changed in school quite drastically and we are sorry that we missed a few editions.

I thought I would use this article to share some of the things we have been up to since March.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Boris Johnson announced that school would close to the majority of children but would remain open for the children of key workers and families with vulnerable children. For the months of March, April and May we did remain open and provided child care support for families who needed it. Staff worked in smaller teams, working in school or at home. School was open through the Easter holiday and the half term break. We provided child care support for 41 children during that time. We even had children in school on Good Friday so NHS staff could go to work. We were ready to open on the other 3 Bank Holidays but families did not need support on these days.

During this time the children learnt about dinosaurs, pirates, mini beasts, bees and much, much more.

As well as providing support for the children who came to school staff provided learning to be carried out at home. Calls were also made to check how families were coping and if any further help was needed.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> we opened school for more children and during June and July about 50% of children were back in school learning in 'bubbles' – Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 and key worker children.

Life in school has been very different with new challenges presenting themselves every day. One part of school life that has never changed has been the TEAMWORK. Staff, children and families have all pulled together to make school work the best it can.

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September we started our new school year and all children are back learning and playing together in our 'bubbles'.

I am sure that 2020 has been a strange year for everyone as we have adapted to the changes that have taken place.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone, especially to the staff of Longhoughton CE Primary School, who have helped us to work through these difficult times and will continue to do so.



Tracey Critchlow  
Headteacher

