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Dear Parents/Carers

Final Week of Term (Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July)

Friday 3rd July is the last day of our school term. And, what a term it has been! It has been a mixture of information overload, plans A, B and C, keeping all the plates spinning whilst ensuring our pupils are learning and happy. I cannot stress how overwhelmed all staff are with the way in which the pupils at Barthol Chapel School have responded to this. They have continued to persevere with their learning during this difficult time. And, we all know that it has not been easy for you either! All of us at the school thank each and everyone of you for your efforts this term. From the conversations I have with other Head Teacher colleagues, it has highlighted to me what a special school we have. From the pupils, staff and parents, I am so proud of our school and the way we have quickly adapted and learned during the pandemic.

I have to be honest and say that the announcement in the Scottish Parliament by the Deputy First Minister on Wednesday did spark a considerable amount of anxiety, frustration and confusion after we worked hard to plan for a blended approach to learning in August. If the spread of the virus continues to be suppressed and that the data and scientific evidence supports it, our school can return full time at the start of the new term in August. All staff are of course preparing for this as we do not want our pupils to be away from the classroom for any longer than necessary.

However, please let me reassure you that our school plans for blended learning will be activated and ready to go if the spread of the virus prevents us from returning full time in August. It is expected that the Scottish Government will make a decision regarding school return on 30th July. I will then inform you if we are returning with **Plan One** – Full Time Return or **Plan Two** – Part Time Blended Learning and activation of our bubbles.

Which ever model we return with; the risk assessments and safety measures will remain focused on the key elements which will reduce the spread of the virus. This will include regular hand washing, reducing shared items etc.



In order to allow all staff the time to rearrange plans for August, the activities on Google Classrooms next week will help us all 'wind down' to the end of term. The week will follow the following timetable.

- Monday – French
- Tuesday – Eco Activities
- Wednesday – Technology Challenges
- Thursday – Virtual School Trip
- Friday – Last Day Goodbyes

When we return in August, School Meals will be provided as normal. The first two weeks of term will follow a slightly different menu pattern. The children can select a 'Hot Option' or a 'Cold Option'. The menu can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25375/primarymenustailored2weeks.pdf>

From Week 3, week beginning Monday 24th August, the menu cycle will revert to the standard cycle. The menu for this can be found here:

<https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/media/25272/interactivemenusspringsummer2020d.pdf>

Please look carefully at the dates at the top of the menu.

One final thing, please find below a link to our School Calendar for next session. Again, these dates are provisional.

<https://bartholchapel.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/School-Calendar-2020-2021.pdf>

On behalf of everyone at Barthol Chapel School, I wish you a wonderful summer. Please take care and we look forward to seeing you again.

Continue to stay safe!

Yours sincerely

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Mr Adrian Anderson
Head Teacher

