



Alston Moor Federation
Alston Primary School
Nenthead Primary School
Samuel King's School

Working Together – Achievement For All

24th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the Easter holidays and the end of the Spring Term, I would like to write to all of you to thank you for your ongoing support in what has been a challenging and unprecedented couple of weeks for education and for all of our families working in a wide range of sectors. With an ever-changing global and national situation, it has been difficult to keep up with what is happening and what we should all do for the best for our children and families.

Although school has now closed indefinitely for the majority of our children and students, our teachers will continue to work hard to ensure all of our families are supported in accessing education for all children in the Federation. I have seen some wonderful examples this week of the commitment our children have to their education and it is fantastic to see how engaged and motivated they are while they work at home. Our teachers will continue to provide work during school hours and term time for as long as is required. For our GCSE students, I will continue to update families on how the grades will be decided. It is looking likely that it will be based on teacher assessment and evidence from the work they have done so far but I will confirm this when I have further details. Again, our teachers will do all we can to ensure the grades we submit are an honest and true reflection of the hard work the students have demonstrated so far.

Thank you to all parents and families who are working tirelessly to support their children in keeping a routine of learning and working. Establishing this routine is so important for the children now and for when they do return to school or college/sixth form in the future. It is certainly a different way of living and learning at the moment but I am confident that we can face the challenge together.

In the meantime, I would like to share some of the exciting things that have happened in our Federation this half term and to share some of the successes the children and students have had over the last few weeks.

What's been happening this term?

This term, we have continued to offer a range of extra curricular opportunities across our schools to broaden and enhance the curriculum offer. From a GCSE trip to a synagogue in Newcastle to Park Fell's visit to Crossgill Farm, we have offered something different for children from four years old to sixteen. We have also welcomed some new chicks in Park Fell which have been a real joy!

World Book Day was a celebration across both primary schools and children had the chance to dress up as their favourite book character for the day and take part in lots of reading and book activities.

The Alston Student Council decided that they would like to celebrate Fairtrade Week and raise funds for this project. They planned and delivered an assembly and baked goods using fairtrade products which they sold in a Bake Sale to primary and secondary students.

Carlisle Music and Drama Festival was a wonderful celebration of speech and drama work. Miss Alison worked tirelessly with a number of primary and secondary children and they were triumphant throughout the week! Not only did they represent our Federation in the most brilliant way, we had two students who won their categories and came home with a trophy or two!

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Children at Nenthead Primary School have also taken part in national competitions this half term. Many Key Stage 2 children entered the Radio 2 500 word story competition, some children entered a poem in the National Trust Poetry competition and we had a NPS representative for the World Day of Prayer. Nenthead also supported Sports Relief this half term with the whole school stopping when the official song started for three minutes of random exercise!

Unfortunately, we had to abandon plans for the Easter Fair this week. The children, students, teachers and PTA had some great ideas to raise funds for the schools and it was set to be a fun-filled afternoon for everyone to come together. It would be wonderful to think we could run this again at some point. Watch this space!

The schools continue to move forward in very uncertain times and we aim to offer as many experiences and opportunities as we can for all of our children and young people. Please remember, although we might not be in the buildings, we are here on email and on the telephone to answer any questions and queries you may have. We are here to support all of our families and children. We will reopen again at some point and we look forward to seeing you all when we do. In the meantime, stay safe and look after your loved ones. Thank you for your unwavering support and understanding.

Yours Faithfully,

S Timmons

Acting Headteacher

