



'Placing learning at the heart of everything we do'

11th February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

Here we are nearly at the end of Term 3. As we approach the end of another busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given both to your child and to the school during this difficult time. I am sure we are all pleased that we have been given a glimmer of an idea that we might start to see more children back into school after 8th March. We all watch the news together as we wait for further updates that I think are due mid-February, with the 15th being a vaccination deadline date the Government have set. Hang in there folks!!!

We have received some feedback from parents regarding our live remote learning offer, that will be taking place after the February break. Please join in with the sessions that work for you as a family. We fully understand that each of our families are working in different situations. This is a new adventure into the unknown for all of us! Teachers have been working hard to get ready as they endeavour to get to grips with a very unfamiliar method of working, to provide some live lessons. We are however very aware that even the most outstanding remote learning will only ever be a poor shadow compared to bringing children back into school and we all hope that can happen very soon.

Whatever your personal circumstances are regarding home learning, **we think you are doing a great job.** We are in a second national lockdown! We know our children are safe, loved and cared for and this is the most important thing at present. All we ask is that you continue to do your best. As I have said before, we do expect engagement, if you manage all the work set, fantastic, equally if it is just one activity each day that is ok too. I repeat my previous reassurances that you can only do your best in keeping your child engaged in our online learning and I continue to be impressed with the work that the teachers keep showing me that you have uploaded onto Seesaw or Tapestry.

Staff have now been using the rapid lateral flow testing for nearly 3 weeks. They test twice a week and report directly to both NHS Track and Trace and the school. These tests will test asymptomatic cases and could result in disruption to 'bubbles.' I can only reassure you that we are taking every precaution we can in school each day, where possible keeping a social distance of at least 2 metres and maintaining bubbles that are as small as practically possible.

As we look forward to welcoming children back, hopefully at some point next term, I would like to thank some key people:

- ✓ Thank you to those of you who support our school community through working in key roles during this difficult time. Your service during this time is much appreciated. We are proud to support you through caring for your children in our schools.
- ✓ Thank you to all parents (including school staff) who are supporting their children's learning at home. It is an impossible task to juggle home schooling along with caring for infants or juggling a job. You are achieving the impossible, you are making a difference to your child's learning and please remember that we are here to help – just email or pick up the phone.
- ✓ Thank you to all of you (parents and staff) who at the drop of a hat have had to deal with bubble closures and have adapted quickly to learning or teaching on site to learning and teaching from home.
- ✓ I would like to thank all the staff at school who are working daily to do their best to support each other, our children and our families. It is a pleasure to work with such inspirational and positive people. They strive continually to provide lessons to the very highest standards and

have worked above and beyond to ensure that our children's education, engagement and welfare remain our number one priority. All this has been under very difficult circumstances. We as school staff are only human!

This lockdown will end and when it does, we will get back to our core business of teaching, but now we can only do the best we can. We are in this together, there will be good days and bad, just take each one as it comes and above all stay happy together as a family. I'll finish with a quotation that seems to be doing the rounds on social media currently:

Tough times don't last, tough teams do.

Keep safe and well.

Mr Marsh-Ballard