

Keeping in Touch – 22nd May 2020

Dear all,

I hope you are keeping safe and well at home, and are looking forward to the half term 'holiday' (I use that term loosely, but if nothing else everyone can have a well-earned break from home learning!) next week.

It has been a very busy time in school this week, with all members of staff working very hard to prepare the school physically and logistically for our phased re-opening which begins after half term. School will look different – in that you will have never seen it looking so clean, tidy and empty! It will also feel a little different, with adapted systems and procedures for us all to follow. These are about keeping us all safe and well, and we will spend lots of time working with children to help them learn and understand these. In situations such as these I tend to find that children always impress me with their resilience and adaptability, and their ability to accept a new 'normal' far more rapidly than us adults...

There will also be changes to how we ask you to interact with school over the coming weeks. We need to ask you not to come into the building or onto the site (except at your child's designated pick up time). If possible, could all contact with the school be via email. I have put a list of these on the reverse of this letter, to ensure that you have them all. The school office will only be manned from 8:30am-11:00am each day. Either Mrs Watson or Mr Barker, who will be joining us from the Acorn team during this time, will be available to answer the phone and respond to queries during these hours. Outside of these times emails will be picked up and answered.

We would ask you to limit any 'paper' letters/messages you send into school at this time. Either your child can hand them over to an adult at drop-off time if they are coming into school, or they can be posted into our external post box, which is a black box situated on the outside of Winter Class on the front of the school building.

Looking to the future, we would normally be planning dates for next year at this time. Given the current situation this is not possible in the usual way, but Acorn has agreed that we will be following the agreed Wiltshire timetable for holidays in the year 2020-21 which you can find at <file:///H:/Agreed-calendar-2020-21.pdf>. We would usually confirm our 5 TD Days for next year at this point, but again this is very difficult for us to plan and foresee currently. We will definitely have a TD Day on the first day of the new school year, Tuesday 1st September, but beyond that I ask for your understanding that these will be confirmed at a later date.

I shared with you the amazing challenge that Bertie Steptoe has set himself last week. We are not the only ones to recognise what a fantastic achievement this is, as he was featured in the Wiltshire Times this week (<https://www.wiltshiretimes.co.uk/news/18459281.six-year-old-raising-funds-crohns-disease-colitis-sufferers-families/>) and will be on BBC Radio Wiltshire at 3:10pm this Saturday (23rd May). Well done Bertie, we are all so very proud of you.

Just a reminder that Monday 1st June is a TD Day in school, so no on-line work will be posted before Tuesday 2nd June on the class web pages. For Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 4 days of work will be posted that week, for YR, Y1 and Y6 we will be moving to 2 days a week to compliment the time they are able to spend in school.

It just remains for me to say that I hope you all find, in your different ways, space and time to relax and enjoy yourselves next week. I am very much looking forward to seeing some of you after half term, and I hope before long I get to see you all again.

Best wishes,
Lindsey Hermon

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