

## Keeping in Touch – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear all,

I hope that you all enjoyed the break from 'school' last week, and managed some rest and relaxation in amongst the rain and restrictions.

How wonderful that in the first newsletter of this term we can celebrate the fact that all children will be returning to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March. I very much hope that this news brought joy to your household – it certainly did to me and all the staff members in school! We are all now working very hard to plan and make sure that everything is ready for the 8<sup>th</sup>. Accompanying this letter today, you will find another one which explains all the arrangements for the school's re-opening. I appreciate that it is long and very detailed, but please read it carefully. Most of our procedures and routines are the same as they were during the Autumn term, but there is extra information specific to this time included in the letter, so please take the time to understand everything that it says. If you have any questions about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us in school so we can make sure that you have all of the information that you want and need.

In amongst our relief and happiness that things are starting to move in a positive direction, we do understand that this remains a difficult time for people, and brings much anxiety and mixed emotions along with it. If you have any worries about your child specifically or the systems in school more generally, please speak to us about them before the 8<sup>th</sup>. Concerns about children are best shared with their class teacher in the first instance, and anything that is more general you are welcome to come straight to me about. This has and continues to be such a difficult time for everyone, all of us in school are committed to trying to make this next transition as smooth as possible.

All of the staff are very aware of the huge toll that the outcomes of the pandemic have placed on children. We have spent a lot of time discussing the best way that we can approach the return to school. The first thing that we will be prioritising will be making sure that all children feel happy and safe back in the environment and routine of school. Through this we will be re-establishing working patterns and expectations, ensuring that children are feeling confident and are able to be independent. Teachers will also be assessing how children's learning has progressed over the past two months. This will enable us to plan our curriculum carefully for the rest of the school year, so that we can ensure that children have the core knowledge, understanding and skills they need for a successful progression onto their next school year in September.

A very important part of this process will be sharing what we are seeing in school with you at home. Therefore we will be organising Parents Evening meetings for the last week of this school term (w/c Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March). These will be held 'virtually' through zoom, as we did earlier in the year. You will receive more information about how to book an appointment over the next few weeks.

Next week brings World Book Day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March. This is a day where we usually take the opportunity in school to celebrate and explore the magic and treasure that reading and books can bring to us all. Although we can't do the things we usually do this year, such as enjoy dressing up as story characters together or share the excitement of working with a real author in school, we most definitely did not want the occasion to pass unmarked. So we have been working very hard in school to create something fun to help you experience the wonder of stories at home this year – look out for something special on the school website next Thursday...

Wishing you all a very safe and happy last week of remote learning.

Best wishes,  
Lindsey Hermon