

11th March 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been such a pleasure to welcome all the children back into the on-site school this week. To hear their voices and share their excitement at seeing their peers has lifted our spirits. The children are gradually settling into the routines of school and re-adjusting to working with their peers. We have noticed that a number of the children are very tired, and perhaps need to adjust their bedtime after such a long period of not having to leave the house by a particular time!

Thank you so much for your co-operation regarding wearing face coverings on the playground as it does help to keep us all safe. We have really appreciated this. It is difficult at the moment perhaps to remember that we are still in a national lockdown situation, even though the children are now allowed to mix with their class peers. We are still required to ensure two metres distance between classes, and to encourage the children not to play contact games. Please can I remind all parents to keep two metres social distance between each family when waiting for siblings at the end of the day - sadly some parents have been closer than the rules permit. In addition, please could I ask that – as the secondary schools return – elder siblings who have left our school to move on in their education do not accompany you onto the playground. Ideally they should not be individually collecting their younger siblings either, as this helps to limit the possible viral load affecting our children. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

As you may be aware from the press, the Government are making Lateral Flow Tests available for all children from Y1 upwards and their families should you wish to test your child and yourselves. Lateral Flow Tests are recommended to be conducted twice weekly and help to identify asymptomatic cases. I attach to this newsletter a flyer from the Department for Education which gives information regarding this. (The school cannot issue tests to families, but it does issue to all staff, including visiting teachers.) I would strongly encourage you to consider participating in this programme, as the more we work together to look after each other and keep safe the sooner we will be able to move into a new normality in living with the virus.

After consultation regarding the exceptional circumstances, and in order to make the meetings meaningful, we are arranging Parent Consultation Meetings for Tuesday 27th April and Thursday 29th April. As last term these will be virtual meetings via GoogleMeet, and further details will be sent to you in advance. This time you will be invited to book your time slot, and the member of staff will then send you the appropriate code and admit you to the meeting at your chosen time. Appointments will be for 10 minutes and will be during the day. We thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

As the roadmap to releasing lockdown gives 29th March as the date from which outdoor activities for children can resume, Tring Cricket Club are planning a number of activities over the Easter Holidays in which the children may be interested. Details are attached to this newsletter and are booked directly with the Club.

This week our focus with the children has been on their well-being and on PHSE. Next week is re-orientation week during which learning topics from the period of remote learning will be re-visited to ensure that the children feel secure in that learning prior to moving on. As a school we are not using the language you may have seen in the press

regarding 'catching up the lost generation'. Your children are not a lost generation – they have learned a huge amount whilst at home not just academically but also including skills such as time management (effective or not), personal resilience and independence. Our focus in the coming weeks is to enable them to feel secure in the learning they have undertaken more independently, and to identify any areas of learning insecurity with which they may need more input and help. We are very proud of them for all they are doing and we thank you all for your support to your children and the school over the past two months.

Next Friday we will be participating in Comic Relief – red nose day. As previously mentioned (possibly referring to Children in Need as I was confused!) we invite the children to come to school dressed to represent a word (for example fluorescent, princess, superhero, glittery – but not footballer please as this leads to a great deal of angst!) and to bring a donation for the charity. I am sure they will be very inventive and present us with lots of challenges as we guess their chosen word!

Mrs K. Tamlyn
Head Teacher