



NEWSLETTER – 15th April 2021

Welcome Back -

Thankfully, the return from the Easter break so far has not seen any major disruption and we were delighted that in the end, the Reception isolation at the end of last term did not impact too greatly on your Easter plans. The pupils have returned very well into school and we are crossing all of our collective fingers and toes that we can complete a full term with little disruption.

We will still continue to take a cautious safety first approach to potentially symptomatic pupils and request a PCR test is taken should a child present with a potential symptom. I appreciate that this can be inconvenient and that the hayfever season may make this challenging for one or two but we are very grateful for your understanding and support in helping us keep our school community safe. PCR results are currently being returned very quickly so isolation can be kept to a minimum.

Parents' Evening Week 26th April 2021-

SchoolCloud App - We are finalising details for our parental consultations. Although this will be done remotely, we are trialling a new system which will allow for a 'face-to-face' meeting albeit virtually. Some of you may have used a similar system with older siblings and the SchoolCloud App has been very positively received by both parents and schools where it has been used. We do think this may make the whole process easier for all parties and this may well be the future of parent/school meetings moving forward.

Early next week, we will send you log in details which will allow you to sign up for a session. The app is web-based so can be accessed by any internet enabled device. Staff will have posted their available slots for the week beginning 26th April and once you choose a slot then this is no longer available to be booked by others. There will be a variety of time slots available with a later evening on the Monday. Given there is no need for a physical meeting we think this should offer parents far more flexibility.

The app offers timed meetings and having spoken with other school users and given the quantity of meetings that we will need to get through, **a meeting will last 9 minutes**. The app is designed to ensure the scheduled meetings are delivered on time, so a countdown clock appears on your screen and **the meeting automatically ends after 9 minutes**. I know a big frustration for parents is having to wait around in school because appointments have run well over their allotted time. This cannot happen with this app, the time you have booked will be the time of your meeting. You are asked to log on just prior to your allotted time and you will be held in a waiting area. Your meeting will start at the time given and will operate in a similar way to a Facetime call.

A letter will be sent out next week explaining the details of the booking process.

This has been a very unusual year which has impacted on many areas of what was previously normal life. The impact on schools and education is likely to impact for several years. In normal times, in a parental consultation we would be able to explain how your child was doing being mindful of a national expectation level. This will not be possible for any child this year. There are no statutory end of year assessments and we cannot measure, for example a Year 5 child, against previous Year 5 pupil performance or Year 5 national expectations due to the disruption to education across this last year.

I want to reassure you that this is the same for all children nationally. The focus of the parental meeting will be to let you know how your child has settled back in after lockdown. It will outline areas where we feel your child is showing strengths and outline some of the areas within the curriculum that our ongoing assessments are highlighting as target areas for the coming term, these will be your child's next steps in learning.

Our key focus for this term is to prepare your child for their next learning stage – whether that will be a move to high school or an internal transition. As with all schools, we are working towards the reintroduction of the statutory assessment points next academic year – we wait to see whether the Government adjust the expectations for these points in light of the pandemic.

National Tuition Programme-

We will be rolling out further the tuition programme that has been funded as a result of the pandemic. Currently a number of pupils in Years 1 to 4 are benefitting from this and this will expand further from next week with Mrs Partridge returning on a temporary basis to work with some Year 5 & Year 6 pupils. Mrs Cole will also return from maternity leave in May for the remainder of this term, this will be in a tutoring role. As I mentioned in earlier correspondence, not all pupils will be involved in these programmes.

After School/Extra-Curricular Clubs -

We are looking to make a slow but steady return to being able to offer some extra-curricular activities. These will be bubble-based initially and will start with Tennis and Football in a couple of year groups. As lockdown eases further then we will hope to see more clubs being offered.

Residential Visits –

Guidance is now being issued around residential visits and Year 6 staff will be in touch in the coming days with regards to a possible Robinwood visit this term.