



Monday 15th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carers,

We are now into our second week back and we have to say it has been wonderful to have all the children back in school. There is a real buzz in the classroom and some great learning taking place. While we have been sensitive to the feelings of children who have found coming back with large numbers of children and leaving their parents difficult, most children have really enjoyed being back in school - even though they have had to get up early. The staff have welcomed them back with enthusiasm and delight and the school feels 'alive' again. Rest assured that the pupils and parent questionnaires and being looked at and appropriate provision and support is being put in place.

Even more than in the previous lockdown, we are so impressed with the children's learning. Many have made superb progress and have benefitted from the support of their families.

Whilst nationally the numbers of cases are falling we are still in an area which needs to reduce further. **It is critical that people do not see the return of children to school as a green light for increased social activity.** Children and their parents should not be mixing with other households and everyone needs to adhere to the guidance. Handwashing, hygiene, wearing of face coverings and social distancing are key principles which we all need to follow.

Finally, a personal reflection, please do not pay too much attention to the media with their constant doom and gloom about the loss of learning. The picture is simply not as bad as the one being reported. The phrase 'catch-up' is simply not appropriate and is very insensitive - catch up with what? The priority needs to be on children catching up with friends and family and the activities they love - as soon as it is safe to do so! Learning is not an issue and will happen anyway. The school will step in, supported by parents for the children who have any specific gaps. This is where our morning and after school boosters are so important and children should attend. We will be part of the Trust Springboard Strategy which will see a three strand approach to focus on moving forward with learning.

Thank you for your continued support and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Isberg and *Nicola Jayne Howard*

Sarah Isberg (Executive Head) & Nicola Howard (Head of School)



DfE ranked No. 1 school nationally in 2016 when compared to all similar English primary schools. www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk



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