

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now come to the end of the partial school closure – a very big well done and thank you to everyone. Children, teachers and parents have been amazing throughout. It has been a challenging time for all. We can't wait to see all the children back on Monday.

Please refer to the letter I sent last week which has all the information about full school re-opening.

Please remember staggered starts apply:

8.45am – 3.15pm for Reception, Year 5 and 6 and any siblings of those classes.

8.55am – 3.30pm for Year 1, 2, 3 and 4 (unless they are siblings of R, 5 or 6).

Nursery is 9am (unless they have siblings in R, 5 or 6) - 3.15pm.

It is vital these timings are adhered to and people socially distance in the playground and wear face coverings if possible.

Next week we will be taking time to help all the children to settle and make sure they enjoy their first week back. I am sure they are all excited to see their friends again.

Within the news, there is much talk of 'Recovery Curriculum' and 'Catch Up'. As teachers, this is what we are trained to do. We will work with all the children to assess if there are any gaps and put plans in place to support your child. We are very mindful that not all children will have gaps but there may be work that the whole class need due to some coverage being missed. I would like to reassure all of you that we will continue to provide a high quality learning environment and no child will be disadvantaged by the current situation.

A minority of children have been telling us they have been meeting up with friends at parks and the beach and some have been visiting friends' houses. While the news of the successful vaccine roll out is encouraging and good weather is upon us, I am aware people may be tempted to relax and not adhere to the government rules so closely. We must remember we are still in the midst of a global pandemic and continue to live under strict rules and these must be adhered to if we want to continue in this positive direction. The current rules are still that families are not allowed to meet up with other families and friends - also support bubbles should just be when it is essential. Some people have said that the children in class are mixing with their friends in school anyway so it doesn't matter outside of school. However, I think we would all agree that school is essential for many reasons and we are doing all we can in school to minimise mixing, including mixing with other adults. It is really challenging but we all need to do everything we can to follow the rules and ensure we do not see rates of infection rising again.

Home testing for families/support bubbles of students and staff

The Government has now released guidance which allows families and support bubbles of children and staff to test themselves at home twice a week. If you would like tests for yourself please visit your local test centre to collect a home testing kit. The local one for us is by the beach in the Maer Carpark. You can collect testing kits from them after 1pm in the afternoon. If you cannot drive to collect them you can order them online at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Last week we recommended a book without words to support children in their return to school.

This week we have been sent another book. This time with words and it talks about how the children have been superheroes by staying at home and supporting their return to school. It is definitely worth a look

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/back-to-school-after-coronavirus-story/>

Many thanks for your continued support

Best wishes

Mrs Taylor-Bashford