

01 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

How is it February already? On the one hand this New Year seems to have dragged along and on the other it is speeding along so fast. It will soon be the 8th March and hopefully we will be able to open the doors to all of our children. If the Government are to be believed, schools will have two weeks' notice before any changes happen (hmmmm!) so we should all be up and ready to go when we can re-open. Fingers crossed.

As you know all classes are online and the technical issues and so on seem to have now been ironed out. We seem to be delivering a lot more online lessons, following our normal curriculum, than other schools locally seem to be, which is excellent. Thank you so much for all your positive feedback about how home schooling is going. The Governors were asking me the other day if I had had any parental feedback, so if you want to send anything through I will pass it on to them.

The biggest change in school is that staff have finally been allowed to FLOW test themselves! DCC slowed the whole process down worrying about data protection etc, but have now allowed us to go ahead. This is a massive relief for the staff as it is the first level of safety that we have been given. We will be testing on Sunday evening and Wednesday evening. Depending on the results we can then juggle staff and bubbles if required. We have tested twice so far and not had any positive results, so we can at least say that no staff member was asymptomatic and bringing it into school without knowing. Louise in the Kitchen and Helen our Cleaner-in-Charge are also part of the testing process, which is excellent news.

Another change that we are going to bring in is Well-being Wednesday. Class 3 have been doing this for a while and after feedback from parents, Class 2 and Class 1 began last week. The idea behind this is for the children to have a completely tech free afternoon – no tv, no screens etc – doing something that makes them happy. Some children have baked, others have made dens, some families have taken the opportunity to go for a long walk and others have done art projects and so on. We realise that this kind of afternoon is easier if you are trying to work from home and juggle home schooling if the children are older, therefore Class 1 will help out with activities if you need them too. Mrs Bacon is going to send out a separate letter to you all about this. The class hangouts will still happen at the end of the day so that everyone can share what they have been doing.

Having spent a few days at home with Poppy trying to juggle home schooling and working, I fully understand the stresses and strains you are all going through and thank you profusely for all your hard work and efforts at keeping our little school going. Hopefully, there is a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel and we can all look forward to March. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any help.

Leonie