

Friday 23rd October

Dear Parents/Carers and Families

As we continue to live in very unique times, I want to let you know how this first half term of the academic year has gone for your children and young people, and for the school and our community.

I want to firstly pay tribute to the pupils who have joined us this year, particularly regarding how well they have all settled into their new school life. It is always a joy to get to know our new starters, and this year has been no exception.

Indeed, all pupils have settled into school life well in spite of what has been an extremely long time out of school for some. The morning arrival at school, with our new staggered start times has proved to support everyone to arrive calmly and to start their school day off well.

On a personal note, it's a lovely start to the day to see everybody arriving in such good spirits and to be greeted by our wonderful children and young people.

Many thanks for your continued open communication with your child's/young person's class team in supporting their time in school. It is so important that we can work in partnership with you and it is heartening to see and hear this in action on a daily basis.

I want to stress to you that we continue to keep all elements of provision under review and in line with the ongoing guidance around COVID-19. Please be assured that all staff have responded immediately and with diligence and care to any aspect of the guidance, when required. We have had pupils and staff members present with symptoms and we have followed the risk assessment consistently. Thank you to those of you who have been required to arrange testing, and for keeping in contact with school via the COVID telephone number that we provided to you for this purpose. I am pleased that we have not yet had a confirmed case in our school community, but again, please be assured that as and when this may occur we will continue to act swiftly, in line with guidance, and that I thank you in anticipation of your continued support as we continue to manage these challenges. **Please continue to use the following phone number if you need to report a positive test result for your child/young person: 07754757879.**

I also need to take this opportunity to remind you that should you go abroad over half term that you observe quarantine regulations and advise us of pupil absence on your return.

I do also need to ask you to continue to support school, with the following requests after we return from the half term break:

- Your child/young person's class team will advise you of any days when they will be requiring a **towel** for use during massage sessions. **I respectfully ask that from now on a towel be provided from home** for this purpose. The towel will be returned in your child/ young person's school bag at the end of the day.
- As above, you will be advised by the class team of any days when an apron will be required in school. For some pupils this will be on a daily basis for them to wear whilst eating their snack/lunch, whereas an apron will also be required for some arts and crafts sessions in class. Again, **I respectfully ask that an apron be sent into school** on these days for use, and this will be returned in their school bag at the end of the day. Please ensure that the apron is clearly labelled with your child/young person's name.
- We have had some recent cases of pupils presenting with head lice. Please ensure that you check your child/young person's hair regularly and that you use an appropriate treatment should you spot any eggs or lice.
- In our ongoing plans to reduce costs, we are moving towards a paperless system and after half term we will be sharing MAPP PLIs and class newsletters on Tapestry and newsletters on the school website. Please do contact the office at school if you wish to request a paper copy.

Thank you again for your continued partnership and support and I do hope that you all manage a break next week.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if there is anything that you wish to discuss.

Very best wishes,

Ann-Marie Ellis
Headteacher