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Headteacher Lynn Harrison

Wednesday 16th September 2020

Dear parents,

As we enter the third week back at school, I thought I would write to you and explain some of the things that we have and are planning to do to promote pupils wellbeing, happiness and how we hope to maximise the teaching and learning now we are back at school.

In every class we have planned activities to explore the possible effects of the school closure on our pupils; circle time, time for talk, reinforcing good behaviour and kindness to others, drawing and creating posters, worry boxes and the like. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, or myself if you have any concerns about your child's well-being.

We have made the school look as much, or even better than it did prior to lockdown, we want to create a welcoming and inviting environment.

Wherever possible, restrictions allowing, some of the usual activities and extra activities will still take place, such as football with Rowan, and wheelchair basketball (this will still take place in school on Monday 21st September). I am currently working on alternatives to the MacMillan Coffee Afternoon and harvest gifts for our community (sadly no harvest festival or Christmas plays this year).

Lunchtimes. Obviously our main priority is keeping everyone safe and happy. As you are aware we trialled a two sitting lunch time, but this presented us with more problems than it solved. The side gate had to be left open and unlocked, which presented a far greater risk to the children, particularly the younger ones who may not yet be familiar with boundaries. So we reverted to the single sitting, seating children wherever possible in their class bubbles. Everyday there will be a few children who do sit next to someone from another class, but this is unavoidable and for a very short time. Also all children wash their hands before entering the hall and when they leave.

During break times and lunchtimes we do not expect the children to distance from each other, again they have washed their before going out to play and wash them before re-entering the building. We know that being outside significantly reduces the chance of transmission. The outdoor equipment continues to be used on class rotas. We will review this at half term.

To boost the recovery of the curriculum we have spent last week assessing all pupils to gain an accurate baseline of each individual in school. We will send your child's assessments home shortly. This will tell us exactly which areas need to be revised and what gaps will need to be covered. The Government has pledged money for all schools to facilitate this, but as yet no school in England has received a single penny. From what information I can gather it is proposed that schools will get in the region of

£50 – £60 per pupil to aid recovery, which as you can imagine will not stretch very far. So we have put plans into place that do not rely upon these funds.

In readiness for any catch up or/and curriculum recovery we have invested in a brand new maths scheme with lovely term by term text books and a new Maths and English homework scheme. I hope that the children will enjoy the new books and develop a pride in their own work. These books are very well written and comprehensive. They are a new way of working, so if you would like the class teacher to explain them to you, contact them directly and they can quickly show you at the start or end of the school day. The PTA have very kindly offered to reimburse the school for both of these new resources. If your child has an IEP or requires additional support we will contact you shortly to discuss how we propose to do just that.

We have also had to prepare a contingency plan, (planning for the worst case scenario), with everything crossed that the school does not have to close again. In the event that this does happen we want to make home learning more targeted and personal, we will use Teams to provide online learning, use email to send and receive pupil work and the homework books will be a very useful addition to our plans. Details of email addresses to be used and security passwords will be sent home soon, so that we are as prepared as we can be.

In terms of dealing with the virus, I have attached a flow chart which hopefully simplifies the copious and ever changing guidance we have been bombarded with over recent months!

I will contact you immediately if:

I have sent a child home displaying the recognised symptoms;

Or, I have been made aware that, as a precaution, someone who has been in attendance in the past 48 hours has been advised to have a Covid-19 test.

Until results are received the school and all class bubbles continue to operate as normal and the community will be updated when we know the outcome.

**** In line with the CCC response guide, we must inform all parents that there are a small number of members of our school community currently going for or have had Covid tests. Thankfully none of the tests have returned positive as yet. Please can I remind you to be observant for symptoms: high temp; new cough; loss of taste/smell.**

As our school is a small school, with siblings across the 3 classes, and as a lot of children travel on the school transport mixing across classes, all communication will be sent to all parents, not to cause alarm, simply to keep you informed of the situation here at school.

I will write to you again shortly with our plans for the coffee afternoon and Harvest gifts.

As always, if anyone has any concerns please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email, or see me at the start or end of the school day. Unfortunately, face to face meetings are not to be organised at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Lynn Harrison