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*Headteacher Lynn Harrison*

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of the sixth week of the Autumn Term, I thought I would write to you and explain what has been happening in school and what we have planned for after half term.

As we opened our doors to all the children back in September, our number one priority was safety, closely followed by the happiness and wellbeing of every member of our school community.

I am pleased to report that all children have settled back into the school routines and are happy to be back in their classrooms and enjoying time with their friends and teachers. As you would expect some are now getting tired as the term rolls on, but we have all, thankfully, stayed safe and well.

I think the children in Years 2-6 are becoming accustomed to the Homework books (as are the teachers!) and, whilst some aspects are challenging, most children report that they like them now that they are familiar with the way the books work!

Once the children were settled and comfortable and confident with the new routines, we embarked on assessing all the children to ascertain a baseline of standards and identify gaps. All parents were sent assessment scores home for their children. Since then, we the staff, have been busy planning strategies to address those gaps. Strategies for the most part involve whole class revision, and for some children, small group and individual catch up sessions are being planned. If your child is to take part in the small group or one to one sessions, an IEP (Individual education plan) has been written identifying just what areas we aim to tackle and how you as parents can support the work we are doing at school. These IEPs will be sent home next week. If you receive an IEP for your child, please read the plan through, sign it and return it to school.

We are trying wherever possible, to keep routines and activities as normal as possible, even though we were unable to hold our Harvest Festival in church, KS2 enjoyed delivering harvest hampers and we have already had letters and gifts of thanks from some of the recipients. A small act of kindness in these strange times means so much, so thank you for sending in such lovely items for the hampers! The Rota Kids have been elected and are planning a version of a Halloween disco, we are looking at ways of running the Christmas party and we have optimistically rebooked the summer residential!

Currently we are really busy organising the remote learning provision, so that if a child has to isolate or bubble or the school has to close, we have a clear plan in place. We have decided to use Microsoft Teams, this will allow us to be in contact with the children on a daily basis, set work that the children can return to us for feedback and also hold some face to face sessions. We want to get this system set up before half term so that we the staff, and you, parents and children, can have time to become familiar with this provision. The aim being that we are all confident to use it should the need arise (fingers and everything else crossed that this does not happen!!). You will receive a letter in the very near future which will explain how to download Microsoft Teams, which email addresses to use, and passwords etc. I have been assured it will be very straightforward to use! Children will need access to a laptop, PC or tablet for this as phones are not really suitable. For now I have attached a brief summary of the government expectations and our planned provision for your reference. Obviously some aspects may change, but I will keep you informed as and when these changes take place.

After half term we hope to offer some after school catch up sessions, for those children who may need specific catch up.

We will be assessing the children's writing as we always do at the end of the half term and hope that this demonstrates the progress we can already see. I can say without any hesitation, that we can see improvements in all children since their return, they are well adjusted and content.

As always, if you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact class teachers or myself by phone or email and we get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

*Lynn Harrison*