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11 September 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Review of 1st Week back

I must say a massive well done to everyone – staff, parents and children; it is fair to say we had a degree of anxiety about how the full re-opening of school would go this week. All members of the school staff have been working extremely hard to plan and prepare for every aspect of the school operation from staggered daytime routines, to physical set-up, to cleaning, to how best to support our little friends emotionally and, of course, the actual teaching and learning. Thankfully, everyone's hard work paid off.

We have made one or two tweaks to the operation as we have gone along, and no doubt will continue to do so. Overall, we have been very thankful for the extremely smooth and calm start to school. It has of course been a joy to see all our friends back and to see them so keen and eager and smiley.

Many thanks to all our parents and carers for following the new systems. It has really helped having only one parent/ carer at drop-off or pick-up. You may wear masks on site if you wish but, as you know, they are not compulsory. The key for all of us is to avoid complacency and to continue to socially distance as we go forward.

Following feedback, we have reviewed our lunch time durations today and are extending them to allow for an unhurried lunchtime as from next week. Such changes are harder than they sound when you consider the knock on effects of having seven year group bubbles with staggered lunchtimes and the need to avoid cross over on playgrounds.

I will also look to re-introduce my assemblies. They will need to be with only one year group at a time in the hall and arranged to allow for cleaning of the floor before subsequent PE lessons. Depending on my diary, I will try to get round the whole school each week. Assemblies really help to cement the family feel of the school and it will be good to get them back up and running.

We will be holding year group welcome and curriculum meetings for parents via zoom as follows:

- Year 6 Monday 21st September at 6pm
- Year 2 Tuesday 22nd September at 6pm
- Year 3 Wednesday 23rd September at 6pm
- Year 4 Thursday 24th September at 6pm
- Year 5 Monday 28th September at 6pm
- Year 1 Tuesday 29th September at 6pm
- EYFS Wednesday 30th September at 6pm

Zoom meeting codes for each meeting will be issued next week.

Once again, can I please request that everyone checks that they can access Google Classrooms. This will be our main way of remote learning should pupils need to self-isolate. It would be really helpful if everyone was ready now and set for the year.

Across the school, class teachers are getting their class dojo accounts set up and running. This is a fun way to share reward points and incidental messaging. Please note, all essential information such as lateness/ absence/ picking-up arrangements etc must be reported to the office as per usual.

Finally, please find attached the results of our parental survey from the last academic year. The feedback and survey outcomes are very gratifying. Nonetheless, we always strive to improve our school and your feedback will help guide us to do so.

Thank you and have a good weekend.

(I expect there will be a few tired people around; big ones and little!)

Mr Sean Smith Headteacher