

28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents &amp; Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in getting all pupils back into school safely over the past month. All of us are committed to providing the best education possible for your child, while securing the health and safety of our whole school community. Thank you for continuing to follow public health guidelines and encouraging your children to do the same.

You are already aware of the steps we have put in place to ensure the safe return of all pupils to school. We know that you will be keen to understand the impact that we have had in our first weeks of the term, and what our plans are to ensure all pupils catch up with any missed learning, and what will happen should a pupil or group of pupils be asked to stay at home over the coming months.

That is why I am writing to you today in order to keep you fully informed. This letter will also be published openly on our school and trust websites and is being sent to our governors / trustees.

<b>September School re-openings</b>	<i>Our school is now fully open to all children from Nursery through to Year 6. Staggered start and end of day times remain in place to spread out the flow of people during busy times, enabling better social distancing.</i>
<b>Attendance</b>	<i>Our attendance at school for the first week back was 97.6% with any absence only due to a small number of medical appointment and unauthorised leave. This percentage shows confidence in our families in returning to school and we are grateful for your ongoing support with this.</i>
<b>Coverage of the curriculum</b>	<i>Our long-term curriculum plans have been adjusted this year to carefully integrate crucial aspects of learning that were not taught directly during the lock-down period. Some topics have also been adjusted to ensure that chronological flow of learning is not affected. Staff have already been identifying gaps in learning for individuals which could cause slower than expected progress. This information is now already forming the basis for additional catch-up sessions which are now commencing and will continue throughout the school year.</i>
<b>Remote learning March - July 2020</b>	<i>During the lockdown period, those children unable to attend school were provided with regular learning tasks set either on-line (Purple Mash or Google Classroom) or via a physical learning pack delivered to home. Both on-line platforms enabled teachers to respond to learning and to communicate with children. During the partial-re-opening of schools, all families &amp; children who were unable to return continued to receive regular home learning as well as phone calls from staff to discuss progress and offer support. Uptake on the remote learning was very good, despite the difficulty of initially launching virtual learning without the children being in school to support this. Where home technology was not available, we supported those families with printed versions of the learning and through add-on phone calls.</i>
<b>Remote learning in the future</b>	<i>As detailed in our letter from September 11<sup>th</sup>, we are continuing to enhance the educational technology (Edtech) and systems used to enable more robust home-learning. The use of virtual platforms and educational websites now progresses in complexity and functionality as children go</i>

	<i>through the school. For example, introduction of Microsoft TEAMS Classroom in later Key Stage 2 will enable increased group &amp; individual interactivity, use of videos and group lessons. Children will now be using Edtech to complete homework tasks and will therefore be more familiar with accessing and using the appropriate systems in the event of any local lockdown and possible home learning being needed.</i>
<b>Mental health and wellbeing</b>	<i>All children took part in a Mental Wellbeing focus week during week 1 of the term to ensure that children were given a suitable platform to share feelings, concerns and anxieties whilst receiving specific teaching of Health Education. Any children identified as valuing from additional pastoral &amp; wellbeing support will be included within our catch-up sessions as we progress throughout the year. All children will continue to receive on-going Health Education learning as part of the PSHE curriculum.</i>

Please do not hesitate to contact school on any matter pertaining to your child's education – we openly welcome all feedback (both COVID and non COVID related).

#### **Privacy Notices – Covid-19 linked**

Please note that privacy notices are always available on our school website. These clarify how information is used and where we have a legal obligation to provide school specific data in some instances during the Covid-19 pandemic. These can be found in the policies section of the school website.

#### **Additional Parent Information relating to attendance**

Please look out for a useful information leaflet that has also been sent to all parents and carers which provides details linked to pupil attendance during the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. The leaflet clearly sets out the range of scenarios that I know many of you are experiencing due to range of advice relating to isolation periods, household members and links to other schools through older children. I hope that you find this useful.

#### **Changes to Collection Details**

If you would like to make any additions or changes to our existing lists of who may collect your children from school, please could you email the details to the school admin address which you can find below as we are currently updating our records. Please do not send someone new to collect your child without notifying us in advance. Thank you for your help with this.

Thank you for your support in these challenging times. Please remember to follow both the Trusts' and public health guidance to keep everyone learning safely.

Yours sincerely

Mr G de Castro Morland  
 Headteacher



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