



28<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to write to you now that we are a few weeks into the term to give you an update on how everything is going.

Drop off and pick up is running much more smoothly now that parents are leaving the playground as soon as possible. We completely appreciate that this is not what anybody would want and we really do miss seeing you every day. Can I assure you that myself, the deputy heads and the Pupil Support Team are there at the doors at every drop off and pick up time, just as we used to be. We can't come out and see you all as we would like to, but we are still there to greet and say goodbye to the children.

The children have settled brilliantly. The new starters particularly have been incredible at coming into school independently which has amazed all of the staff. We have had hardly any settling in issues with the children across school and lessons are starting on time with very little disruption.

Inside, the building is looking absolutely beautiful and we can't wait for parents to see it soon. We've painted nearly everywhere, had new carpet throughout and all of the corridors / cloakrooms have had a revamp. Mr Stoner was very busy over lockdown making sure the school got a makeover while we were closed. We hope the children like their new surroundings.

In both of the Early Years classrooms we have had brand new furniture and resources throughout. The children in Class 1 and 2 are so lucky to have all new equipment to use and play with. Everything was designed by the Class 1 and Class 2 teams and they are really proud of their new classrooms. The new Reception parents will soon receive information about the year ahead which will replace our usual 'New Starters' evening which usually takes place in October.

### Reading Books

Please can I urge you once again to return any reading or library books to school. We spent thousands of pounds on new books just before lockdown and we are missing quite a few which is a shame. We have a box in the foyer if you want to drop them off there or you can ask your child to give them to their class teacher.





### Swimming

At present we are not able to offer swimming lessons to any of our KS2 children because Yearsley Pool remains closed to schools. If you paid for lessons last term which didn't go ahead, we will be getting in touch shortly to refund the money. Watch this space!

### Parents' Evening

Parents' evenings will be different this year. Later this half term we will be writing to you explaining how to book appointments for telephone meetings with your child's class teacher. The meetings will mainly be about how the children have settled in, their general happiness and wellbeing and their work so far. We have been delivering wellbeing lessons every week, in every class and we feel like these are really helping to settle the children.

### Bloomz

If you are not yet signed up to Bloomz, please try to do this. Now more than ever, we are using technology to communicate with parents. For example, children from every class were chosen for the 'Headteacher's Award for Behaviour' this week and a photograph sent home on Bloomz. Also it's a great way for you to make contact with your child's teacher while you are not able to come into school.

Things are certainly very different at the moment but the children seem to be enjoying school and it is wonderful to have them all in again. Obviously, we want to stay fully open so please help us by keeping your children at home if they have a persistent cough or a temperature. Guidance has been sent to you about what to do if this happens. We really appreciate your support with this as it is allowing us to keep all of the children and staff safe.

I do hope we can see each other in person again soon!

Best wishes,

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