



Dear Parents and Carers,

I read today that there have been over 100 updates to the DfE guidance over the last 11 weeks. I will try not to repeat myself as I'm aware how much information people are being given. In more positive news, the UK's Coronavirus threat level has been downgraded from four to three. This, however, does not mean that everything will be back to 'normal' straight away. As Government guidance is changing regularly, we will continue to keep our children and staff safe as best we can. Hopefully, we can return to some kind of normality in September following Gavin Williamson's latest announcement.

Firstly, please can I remind all the parents that if children are returning to school, they cannot have any coronavirus symptoms. If they have any medical condition that could be masking the symptoms of coronavirus, they cannot attend school and need to follow Government guidelines to self-isolate and get Covid-19 tested. Children who do attend school will be sent home immediately. This is for the safety of our whole school community. Failure to do this will result in the closure of all Bubbles affected for 14 days.

Nursery

This week in Sunnylands Nursery, there has been mixed weather but we have still been able to enjoy some outside time. We have been pleased to see the children enjoying their lunch from home; the children have enjoyed picnicing in the Orchard and looking at different foods everyone brings in. However, someone did ask for Mr Fountain's food, I think they are missing his Chicken Pie! A delivery of new equipment gave the children opportunities to explore different activities. The magnets have proved popular, with hunts around the classroom to find magnetic items a fun game.

Returning to School

As some children return to school or prepare to return to school it's important that they are prepared. I found some useful advice in an article for parents recently and I thought I would share it with you all.

Preparing your child to return to school:

- Start talking - your child might have worries about returning to school. Open a dialogue with them about it.
- Sleep routine – help your child return to their normal sleep routine in the weeks before school starts again.
- Talk about school – start to talk through the daily routine that they were once so familiar with. It doesn't have to start as a conversation about worries, but these might arise as you talk.
- Model coping strategies you use when feeling stressed such as reconnecting with friends before returning, doing regular exercise or using breathing techniques. If it applies, you could share your own worries and feelings about returning to work and ways you are managing these feelings.
- Make yourself available as much as possible – they may want to come and “debrief” but maybe not when you expect. Create space for talking in different ways, such as going on a walk together or baking together – there may be less pressure in these circumstances than when sitting face-to-face.



- Look at the positives – as schools reopen, other things will too. It might be helpful to talk about things the child is looking forward to, like their favourite shop reopening, seeing friends in the park or getting ice cream from their favourite café.

What is school like?

Lots of parents ask me what school's like. It's still St Peter's! It's school, but it's different. What I have noticed is that the children adapt incredibly quickly. Within a few days the children are fully familiar with the new routes and routines. It is important to remember the rules and restrictions at the school gate. We try to cover as much of the curriculum as possible, but we also give the children as much time to be with their friends; something some of them have missed. As long as it's not raining (and sometimes when it's raining) we will be outdoors. Lunches are picnics in the beautiful grounds and the children are all excellent at social distancing. What school looks like will continue to adapt and change and I am confident that the children will follow the footprints we've put on the floor. They enjoy playing together even with the new social distancing restriction in place.

I was told in a Webinar yesterday that on average, childrens' spellings and timetables have drastically improved through lockdown and some pupils have made accelerated progress whilst working at home. Statistically, children only learn for two and a half hours during a school day. Many of our children are doing much more than this at home. We have noticed in school that the returning children are more independent, they seem more versatile and they certainly seem more engaged with the stimulus of school.

TikTok

As much as I enjoy technology supplementing learning, the nation, and St Peter's, has noticed an increase in other online activities. TikTok is a massive phenomenon at the moment and is highly entertaining, apparently. However, it is not all suitable for primary aged children. This is up to parents discretion and we can't monitor what the children are on at home but if I could please encourage you to check that all settings on all devices are set up correctly and you talk to your children about what is appropriate online. There are parental controls for TikTok which should be used if your child has their own device.

Father's Day

A little reminder that it's Father's Day this Sunday. Sadly, we haven't had a PTA event to remind you or produce beautiful gifts this year. I know that some of our children have been able to do activities on this and I hope you all manage to spend time with your own fathers or significant male role models on Sunday, if Bubbles allow it.

A final thought, maybe we should all follow in Year 3s footsteps and make every Friday, Fancy Dress Friday? Have a lovely weekend

Warmest regards,

Mr Thomas

Headteacher