



'ad omnia paratus'



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Dear Parents & Carers,

Hello everyone! How are we all doing? I hope you are all well and still managing through, what now feels like, a **very** long period of time of having to juggle, home-life, home-schooling, work and the various other facets of our lives. I know many of you, as I am, are finding certain things quite challenging now and some new routines established during 'lockdown', such as daily 'family' walks, games nights etc actually quite enjoyable. I think it is important that we recognise we are not alone in any of these feelings, our frustrations and anxieties are shared by many I'm sure.

I thought you might all like to know how the phased reopening of school has gone so far. Last week was **really** lovely. I can honestly say it felt like Christmas to all the staff having some of our children back last Monday. After so much planning and preparation, I can happily report everything went very smoothly, the one-way system and staggered drop offs and pick-ups worked really well and the children were brilliant in school adhering to all the new routines from handwashing to keeping apart during playtimes. It was a fantastic community team effort!

I can't thank everyone enough for co-operating with all the new procedures we have had to put in place, I know they have meant maybe a longer walk or a short wait for some in order to stick to the timings for each group – your support is very much appreciated and has meant we had a really successful and calm return.

I know many of you, are wanting to know if we will be having other year groups back into school before the summer-break. The honest answer is at this point in time, I'm not sure. However, I can tell you we are busy looking at a variety of options and producing many plans for how we could try and do so- I think we must be near Plan Z by now!

We would love to have everyone back, unfortunately we know it's not as simple as that. Staff and pupil safety must remain my main priority. I'm again waiting for further Government guidance due later this week which will hopefully/possibly help with the planning process. I will of course update you as soon as I can.

Moving forward, one of the biggest challenges we have, whilst we try to accommodate the return of other year groups, is continuing to provide childcare for the number of Key Worker children we have in school, the number of which has dramatically increased.

We are very proud to have been open for these children for the duration of the lockdown every day, including holidays and bank holiday. We want to continue to provide this provision as we appreciate and understand how important this is in order for our Key Workers to be able to perform their vital roles in our community. Therefore, can I please politely remind you that the booking form must be completed before midday on Friday, as we work out staffing rotas Friday afternoon for the following week. If you complete the form after this time it ends up being a late job for me on a Sunday evening (I'm really not at my best at this time!) to try and resort and staff the groups.



In the meantime, I hope you have another good week. I understand that some of our children may be struggling a little now to remain motivated to do their school work, please don't overly worry, this is quite normal and perhaps to be expected after so long. Continue as best you can to encourage them and stick to those good routines I know many of you have established. Please make use of the National Oak Academy website, the online lessons found on there are really good. Also remember you or your child can email me anytime if you need support, help or gentle encouragement!

Lastly, I just wanted to again say a huge thank you for your kind words of support and understanding over the last few weeks. They really do make all the difference.

Keep well everyone and take care,

Mrs. Cook