



4th March 2021

Well Done and Welcome Back

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are almost through the third full lockdown period and a year since the pandemic forced our schools to limit attendance for the first time. I wanted to write to you all again to thank you for your incredible effort and commitment in helping us to keep your little ones learning and making progress, particularly in the core subjects.

You have all played your part in a historic period for our nation and you can feel satisfied that you have done your part to care for your family and keep the community safe.

This has been an incredibly difficult, worrying and taxing period for families, staff, pupils and the wider community. I want to thank you all for everything you have done and to tell you that I could not feel more proud of you than I do today. I have seen pupils, families and staff struggle so much and in so many different ways over the course of the past year. Anxiety, family illness, bereavement, job insecurity, pressure from the workplace, childcare worries, mental health issues, financial worries, attachment and separation anxieties, family breakdown, changes in child behaviour, guilt, stress and exhaustion. There have been many, many people who have coped with pressure they never expected to have to face.

I want to tell you all that however you feel you have coped with this pandemic, you have done your best and your best is absolutely enough. Please spend this weekend enjoying time (free from remote learning!) together as a family. Remind yourself that, as long as we all stick to the rules and stay disciplined, Monday marks the beginning of the end of this crisis, the first step to normality. Take the time to be kind to yourselves and as a family, say "well done" to each other. You are amazing.

I also wanted to remind you of the staggered start times and finish times for your child/children, this is the same as it was before Christmas:

- Group A (Surnames A to Gi)
Pupils should arrive between 8:40 – 8:50 and should be collected at 3pm.
- Group B (Surnames Go to O'c)
Pupils should arrive between 8:50 – 9:00 and should be collected at 3.10pm.
- Group C (Surnames O'N to W)
Pupils should arrive between 9:00 – 9:10 and should be collected at 3.20pm.

Please show your children this little video message I've put together and also read the letter on the next page to your children who are all due back to school on Monday.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJE4oEKHgQ>

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Brown



Hi boys and girls,

On Monday we will all be back together in school for the first time since we broke up for Christmas, how strange and how exciting! Some of you have been at school throughout the "lockdown" some of you have been at school for some of the time but most of you have not been in school at all. Some of you may feel really excited and can't wait to get back to school to see all the grown-ups and friends you have missed. Some people might be excited but a little worried and some people might just be feeling worried! All of those feelings are fine, we will all feel differently about coming back to school but the most important thing is that we are all coming back and that everything is going to be OK. In fact it isn't just going to be OK it is going to be GREAT!

If you feel worried please tell your grown-ups at home so they can tell us at school or if you are confident enough, just tell a school grown-up when you arrive on Monday.

I thought I might try to guess some of the main worries you might have and I thought about what I might say to you if you shared one of these worries with me.

School will feel really different when I go back.

School is exactly the same as it has always been. All the grown-ups have been working in school since Christmas time and your teachers and helpers are ready and excited to welcome you back. All the rules, the routines and classrooms are just as they have always been. We still need to keep ourselves safe from the Corona virus but your teachers will remind you about what you need to do so you don't need to worry about anything.

My friends and teachers might have forgotten about me.

No they haven't! You are far too lovely to forget about in a few weeks. Everyone in school will be super excited to see you again. After an hour in school you will know that you have not been forgotten.

I haven't done all my home learning and I might get into trouble or be behind in my learning.

It's fine. If you have managed to do lots of learning at home then that is amazing and will really help you, well done! If you haven't managed to do as much as you could have then that is fine too. It has been a tricky time and so your teachers and helpers will do everything they can to help you to catch up. We need you to come back to school and do your best though. We will not be doing maths and English straight away when you get back. We want to give you time to settle in, meet up with your friends and teachers and get back into the school routine. Once you are settled then we will put in place our plans to check on how you're doing in your learning and to help you to catch up if you need to. We are really confident that we can help everyone to catch up with their learning if you have fallen a bit behind.

It will be really tiring being at school every day.

You are right. For the first few days it will be a challenge getting into the routine of early bed, early get up and doing a full day at school. You will get used to it really quickly because this is what you would normally do and your brain will soon get back into those routines. Be helpful to your parents and don't make a fuss just because you are a bit tired. It will soon pass and if you just get on with it you will feel fine after a few days.

I might catch Coronavirus in school.

Don't worry. You can catch Coronavirus anywhere and school is very, very safe. That is why we make you work in bubbles, grown-ups wear masks and we all wash and sanitise our hands all the time. Mr. Saunders, the staff and cleaners make sure the school is as clean as it can be and we keep the whole building well ventilated. We will keep you as safe as possible and you will be just about as safe as you are at home.

Now, I want you to enjoy the weekend and instead of being anxious, I want you to feel excited. Spring is here, the sun is out more often and we will all be back together. It is going to be brilliant. Get to bed early on Sunday and get a good night's sleep. We have stuff to do and it all starts on Monday!

Mr Brown