



Monday 7th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I wanted to write to you all on the eve of children returning to school at the start of a new academic year. Thank you for taking the time to complete the wellbeing questionnaire that was sent on Friday, I have read each of the comments you have made and wanted to address some of the common questions and issues raised.

Firstly, as a father of a 5 year old, I know how challenging home schooling has been and the demands it placed on families. Each family is unique and will have experienced its own difficulties and challenges during the last 6 months. I know you will have all done your best to juggle home learning alongside your own work commitments and the need to try make each day as enjoyable and positive as possible.

Secondly, as you will be aware, children will be working in 'bubbles' to ensure that groups of children do not mix. However, I wanted to clarify that children in the same year group will be able to spend time with each other and play during break and lunch times and not be restricted to just the children in their class 'bubble'.

Some parents have raised concerns about testing and assessments for children taking place when children return to school. Let me reassure you that this will not be the case, we know that the immediate priority for our children is for them to feel safe returning to school and to begin to establish positive relationships with the adults working in their 'bubble' and reconnect with their peers who they may not have seen for 6 months. Testing and assessments will be important as the term progresses but we know that if children do not feel safe and confident then they will not be able to perform and achieve their potential.

I have personally spoken with the managers of all our out of school providers as well as some child minders regarding drop off and collection arrangements. I know many parents have asked about the gap between dropping off siblings in different year groups, we are asking parents whenever possible to stick to the times for each class. Senior school leaders will be in the playground everyday assessing how the arrangements are working and I will be actively speaking with parents to gain your feedback.

Many of you have identified that your child is anxious about returning to school. All our children are experiencing a huge range of feelings and emotions, please be prepared, as will we be in school, for children to react in different ways. It will be our role to support, listen and encourage them to allow them to be able to flourish and thrive.

Now more than ever, the relationship between school and home will be critical in helping to support our children. Arrangements for drop off and collection times will make communication at this time difficult; therefore, I would urge you to contact school by email to request that we call you to discuss any issues. I have met a small number of parents so far as well as communicating with others over the phone or by email and I have been delighted at the positive discussions that have





taken place. I know that when issues occur with our children this is an incredibly emotive time, but let me assure you that we want to create a relationship between home and school that is built upon mutual respect and trust.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Hilton

Headteacher