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Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parents, carers and families,

**Summary update on last week from Will**

Last week saw our classes transition to their new Year group, class and classteacher. The children met this transition with enthusiasm, excitement and confidence! Last Wednesday morning we welcomed children new to our school for the first half day in our Reception classes, then in the afternoon welcomed back children from last year's Nursery class for their first half day in Reception. It was such a pleasure to see the children start so confidently and settle so quickly.

As mentioned in last week's letter the teachers would be ensuring that the class pages on the school website had information about their new year group/classes put up by the end of Friday, including photographs and a video. These were all put up on the website as promised on Friday....please take time to have a look!

Two of our teachers in Year 3, Makeda & Vicky, were unable to be in school for all or most of the week as they had developed symptoms the prior weekend associated with Coronavirus. They needed to follow the guidance requiring them to self-isolate. Both have managed to get a test and both have come back negative, enabling Vicky to return last Friday, and Makeda for this coming Monday.

In relation to another staffing matter I am able to share the happy news that Marie Glackin, our classteacher for Ravenscourt class, is pregnant with her first child, expected in February/March next year!

The main purpose of this letter is to give you a brief update **on plans to address the lost learning time due to Covid-19 and planning for enhanced remote learning in the case of outbreaks in school**, which we understand is of great importance to you and the school.

Many of you have understandably been in contact about what the school is planning to do, especially in light of seeing and hearing within the media over the last couple of weeks what other schools are doing or have had to do due to a Covid-19 case interrupting school. We acknowledge your concerns and are aware that other schools may be further on in the planning and provision stage due to already having the virtual learning platforms in place pre-lock down.

One of our key school priorities this September is to develop what we can offer in terms of remote learning, to enhance the quality of what we can offer so that is comparable with the best other schools can offer. We are working at pace on developing this, you will here more in the coming weeks!



### **Contingency plans for outbreaks**

In the case of an outbreak, we intend to provide learning through the Google classroom platform. We have worked hard to obtain funding and have now received the first session of google classroom training (on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September) with a follow up session in a couple of weeks.

In line with DFE guidelines, we are currently working on the BG Contingency Plan for outbreaks, including provision of work for individual children isolating, as well as considering how to use google classroom in an effective way. Keep an eye out for your child's username and guidelines for parents.

We shall update you with the BG Contingency plans by the end of September, according to the DFE deadline. In the meantime, we shall endeavour to provide some work for children currently isolating via Purple Mash and/or class email. Purple Mash usernames will be sent home next week.

### **How is the school addressing children's gaps in learning caused by lockdown?**

#### **Curriculum and Assessment**

In July, we carried out detailed audits for all curriculum subjects in all year groups (from English to Computing to Geography). The curriculum and subject leads have analysed the outcomes. Using this information, we have taken the additional significant step of re-designing the half-termly plans for all year groups in all subject areas to take account of learning missed since March. (NB: the year group curriculum maps available on the website will not reflect this catch-up element)

Throughout the year we carry out a range of activities that are used to assess the children's academic attainment and to diagnose their gaps in understanding and knowledge. We do this through tests and assessments in day-to-day teaching. Each subject lead then uses this information to keep up-to-date with the children's progress in their subject and to respond to issues that have arisen.

We recognise the importance of additional interventions. Initially, these will focus on Reading and Phonics and will be delivered by adults who work within the year group.

The next review of curriculum coverage and individual gaps in learning will take place after the first round of assessments (see Will's letter of 14<sup>th</sup> Sept).

We would like to reassure you that your children will not be skipping ideas, nor will they be experiencing them too briefly. As a result, it is possible that some children will not reach our end of year expectations this year; we determine that it will take longer than one year for some children to catch up on what they have missed. It is important that we teach the children from where they are now.

Alongside our Recovery Curriculum for children's well-being, we will endeavour to provide the same breadth and balance that our curriculum at Bounds Green has always provided in the past.

We will keep you updated on all the areas mentioned above. In the meantime, thank you for your support and understanding.