



St Lawrence C of E (Aided) Junior School

26th February, 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy week! We have now heard from the Prime Minister. The roadmap has been set out for us and I can confirm that we will be asking all children to return to school on March 8th. It also hints that we will be able to have a holiday this summer which will be welcome news for all of us after staring at the walls in our houses for the last seven weeks! I will be writing next week to give the precise details but we are looking at a very similar timetable to the one we had in the Autumn term with children moving about the school in their bubbles. There will be further information regarding clubs, trips, parents' evening, etc and other dates that the PM mentioned and how they might affect us as we work towards the end of this academic year and what it holds.

I appreciate that there is still a week to go of home-schooling and this has been a mixed bag for you all in terms of how it has gone. Some of you have found it ok and your children have engaged well. For others it has been more of a chore and you have seen the challenges that teachers face on a daily basis. Teaching is a very demanding profession and can be very draining. I can't applaud my staff enough for their hard work over the recent weeks. We had a staff meeting this week and they all mentioned that remote teaching can be harder than face to face teaching and they can't wait to return to the bubble system and eventually back to normal. Some parents are asking their teachers for a catch up. This will not be happening until our next Parents' Evening which will happen this term and further information will come out next week. It is important that children have time to settle back in and for teachers to gauge where they are in their learning. We have been trying to return to some normality in these last two weeks with the children who are in school now wearing their uniform. Mr Paddington (our sports specialist) has been in this week and will also return next week to engage the children in sports activities. I often look out of my office window at all the sport going on and think to myself, as I plough through another packet of crisps, wow that looks energetic! My wife is currently pursuing the 'Couch to 5K' programme to get back into shape. I seem to be following the 'Couch to potato' regime which doesn't have the same effect! We have had some fabulous new games sprayed onto the playground for the children to use when they return: Hopscotch, Snakes and Ladders, Twister etc. They look amazing and I want to thank Miss Carter and Mrs Rey for organising them.

I am sure that there will be several ParentMails coming out next week with information as we work towards all the children returning. It is really important that you check regularly for updates so that you are fully aware of what is going on. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back and reintroducing some normality into their lives. In the meantime, have a good weekend. Once again, I have many plans involving lots of staring off into space and even some good quality daydreaming.

With best wishes,

Mr Damian Tucker
Head teacher



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