



PENSHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents,



You can all breathe a sigh of relief – remote learning is over and your child/children can return to school on Monday.

Many thanks to you all, you have done a great job of working alongside our teachers to continue your child's learning; I am very proud of all we have achieved and I have received very positive feedback from parents about the quality and frequency of the lessons we have offered.

Before Monday, I would ask you to make sure you have read the documents sent to you this week; I will be uploading my extensive risk assessment (!) to the school website today, please do take a look at it and if there is any aspect of safety that you are concerned about, I am confident it will be covered in the document!



Mrs Bennett has today sent home the pick-up times for the end of the school day – these have been thought through carefully to make the process as safe and easy as possible; please only ask for a change if completely necessary – which we will try our best to accommodate.



I know there has been much talk in the press about 'lost learning', 'Covid generation' and 'catch up' – often the tone of these reports is negative and paints a very bleak outlook for our young learners.

I would like to reassure you that I do not believe this will be the case for most children – they will bounce back and soon get back into the swing of school life. Of course it will take a little time to readjust to the routine of coming to school and everyone (including us) will have to adapt to working within time frames and not doing things (especially eating) just when we want. In my experience, this will not take long – most children will be pleased to be back in their class with their friends and teachers.

I like to think that rather than 'losing out' the children have gained so much in lockdown; being at home where they feel safe with their parents and siblings will have brought them great comfort. I am sure they are now ready to 'step out' and return to school where we will do all we can to make them feel safe and well cared for.

They will also have benefited from learning to be independent and resourceful – having to plan their time and be self-disciplined. These are all very important skills and will be useful to them as they go through life.

I feel confident that most pupils will not have gaps in their learning because each of our teachers has planned to cover the school's curriculum; meaning that learning has continued rather than having stopped. The live Zoom lessons have meant that your children have had contact with their teacher and the opportunity to receive high quality feedback and additional support if needed. This has been hugely successful and will have benefitted all those taking part. At my weekly celebration assembly children have shared work and I have been so impressed as it has been of a very good quality and they have clearly been proud of what they have completed. So I truly feel there is much to celebrate and be proud of – all round.



At Penshurst we are confident we can support our pupils to continue with their individual learning journeys; we will always strive for excellence and help our pupils develop into well rounded human beings.

Taking all of that into account, we will not be spending the next few weeks testing pupils to see what they don't know but we will be spending our time supporting them



to show us all they do know and talking with them about their ambitions and hopes. We will walk in their shoes and model the school's values of compassion, determination, courage and friendship. These will form the basis of our catch-up curriculum!

I know that our school community will work together to make our pupils experiences positive and ones they will remember for years to come.

Have great weekend and 'thank you' to everyone – it has been a real school community effort – I will be reflecting on how grateful I am that we have all got through this challenge and are ready to move onto the next one!

I look forward to seeing you on Monday.



Best wishes,
Sue Elliott, Headteacher