Thursday 1st April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: information for the start of the summer term.**

First of all, I must express my sincere gratitude for the way that you have supported our school through this most difficult of terms. The way in which we have all adapted to mass Lateral Flow Testing and extended use of face coverings has been indicative of how determined we all are to overcome the difficulties that come our way as a result of the pandemic. In terms of the very onerous testing programme; I must pay the biggest of tributes to our wonderful welfare team and the many committed volunteers that have supported us through the on-site testing programme. We couldn't have achieved anything like what we did without your wonderful support. Thank you so much! I am sure I can now count on all families to help ensure optimal safety by continuing to follow our LFD testing procedures from home.

There has been no bigger reward than seeing our whole school community come back together in early March. Indeed, as I type this, I can see students having fun whilst enjoying outdoor lessons on the school field. As educators, this is a real tonic to us and I am sure you are equally delighted that your family can look forward to a small step back towards normality over the Easter holidays and beyond. It has been uplifting to have received so many supportive communications from families. We really do appreciate the time taken to send the very positive and encouraging messages we have received. Whilst we would like to think we have got everything right; there are clearly ways in which we could improve further. Please rest assured that we are always happy to receive feedback and we will do our very best to reflect on that feedback when made aware. I have to admit that it is really difficult to read the (thankfully small amount of) negative social media responses that circulate in unofficial parent forums which adopt the school name and/or logo without permission. We would respectfully ask that those who contribute negatively to open up their communication lines with me and my colleagues instead...as we are often completely out of the loop. This is obviously hard to take when we are offering ourselves in partnership and working in the most unprecedented of difficulties.

As mentioned in a previous correspondence, the extended use of face coverings will be reviewed, by the Prime Minister, over Easter at some point. Please rest assured that we will review this guidance at our earliest opportunity in the new term. In the meantime, I would request that students and staff continue to support our current stance until further notice in the first week back. It is really important that we all continue to do our best to ensure that cases of contraction do not rise in the coming weeks and months. Please do speak to your daughter about ensuring that she continues to follow guidance now that she can enjoy more time with larger groups of friends. I am sure we are all looking forward to shops opening and being able to access items that we have had to wait for. In view of accessibility issues, we have tried to take a more lenient view, during lockdown, towards school uniform. We would really appreciate your support in ensuring that your daughter arrives back to school in full uniform or full PE kit, as appropriate, now that it is possible to replace items when necessary.

**Return to school details are as follows:**

**Start of term: - 8.40am. Monday 19th April 2021.**

**The end of the school day will continue as per current timings. (Years 7 and 8 will leave at 3.00pm and all other year groups will leave at 3.20pm.)**

**Please ensure that your daughter has undertaken an LFD test on the evening of Sunday 18th April 2021 and follow Public Health England Guidelines in the event of a High Viral Load being recorded.**

Finally, I would like to wish you and your family the most wonderful Easter holiday on behalf of my colleagues and Governors. Thank you so much, once again, for all your unstinting support.

Yours faithfully

**Chris Keating**

**Headteacher**