

13<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Return to School Summer 2021 – Attitudes to Learning and Expectations**

Since our return to face to face teaching and having all our children back in school from the 8<sup>th</sup> March, we have worked hard to meet both the children's academic and wellbeing needs. We are fully aware of how tough it has been for both children and staff; some have coped well and the pandemic has made little difference, where as some have struggled, and are still finding the return to "normal" school life a challenge.

As part of our support we have:

- **Adjusted timetables to give shorter sessions and movement breaks as well as snacks– this is to help with adjusting to the increased concentration/focus time required in the school day compared to home**
- **Increased our adult ratios where we can – this is to help the children adjust to 1:6, 1:15 or even 1:30 as a ratio compared to a home situation of possibly 1:1**
- **Assessed the children's knowledge and skills-this is so that we are able to plug gaps and adjust misconceptions**
- **Increased PE and physical activity (including swimming) – this is to help with building core strength, stamina and fitness levels as well as supporting mental health**
- **Increased the Personal and Social education provided as well as delivering specific wellbeing sessions – this is to help with supporting children's mental health.**
- **Identified the specific needs that some children might have in returning to school**
- **Praised, rewarded and encouraged where we have seen children really putting in the effort to succeed.**

As we returned from the Easter holidays a couple of weeks ago and moved into the summer term, we noticed that a number of children were still struggling with daily routines and expectations of behaviour that we have as a school. Through discussions at staff meetings, senior leader meetings, meetings with other schools and with Governors it has become clear that we all need to work hard with you as parents to support our children in the rest of this term so that they are equipped for the rest of this term, the next school year and maybe their new school.

A couple of the things that we have noticed an increase in is:

- **the use of inappropriate language, name calling and inappropriate/unkind remarks to others.**
- **an increase in inappropriate and under age use of social media, and online gaming (use of Whatsapp/ Ticktock, GTA, COD and unrestricted access to sites such as Youtube)**

These are not issues that are specific to Wraysbury Primary, in fact it has been identified as a real issue by my Windsor and Maidenhead Headteacher colleagues, the NSPCC and many Online Safety Groups.

In response to the above and in order to support our children and you as parents we have:

- **Reminded our children of our rules, expectations and non-negotiables - attached for your information**
- **Spoken individually in an age appropriate way to every year group in Key Stage 2**
- **Reminded our children that there will be detentions and contact with parents for inappropriate language, offensive comments and more serious behaviour**
- **Sought advice and support from our colleagues in RBWM and from national safeguarding groups**

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- **Asked our Thames Valley Police Schools' Officer to work with us in helping children and parents understand how to be safe online**
- **Bought resources and membership from the National Online Safety Organisation and the NSPCC**

We would like to ask you as parents to work with us in supporting our children's attitudes to learning by:

- **Ensuring that they are in school as much as possible and on time (we actually start to teach individuals and small groups from 8.40 if they are in school promptly)**
- **Ensuring that your child is in the correct school uniform and has all their kit and equipment**
- **Ensuring that your child completes their homework, including reading every night if possible**
- **Reading through and reinforcing our expectations and non-negotiables with them at home**
- **Restricting access to sites, games and social media that they are too young to be on, limiting screen time, being aware of what they are doing online by checking phones, tablets and online chat.**

We will be sharing some materials and resources with you in the near future that we have purchased for you to help with the above and we may be able to provide some face to face training and support for you as restrictions continue to lift.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Phase Leader. In addition to them, there is of course Miss Hodge who is our Child and Family Support worker who can always help with access to the Borough and other specific professionals.

Yours sincerely

Alison Fox

Headteacher