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Friday 17th July 2020

'The Recovery Curriculum'

Dear Parents

On Monday I wrote to you explaining some of the likely changes to our routines which will be in place when school reopens in September. As well as ensuring the children are physically safe, we also intend to provide a carefully adapted curriculum for Term 1 known as the 'Recovery Curriculum'.

Why do we need a different curriculum in Term 1?

Firstly, the children will have experienced a wide range of circumstances during school closure. Some children have been in school nearly every day, whilst most have not been in at all. Whatever the situation, we recognise that children are likely to have been affected by lockdown in some way (both positively and negatively) whether this be personally, socially or emotionally. Our first aim is to ensure that children settle back into school smoothly feeling safe, happy and secure.

Secondly, children have missed lots of learning (over one third of the school year). Therefore, we need to ensure that in Term 1 we teach the key skills and knowledge from the previous year group, to allow them to make progress in their new year. To do this, teachers will carefully plan the learning for all children so that they are not left with gaps as they move on.

What will the 'Recovery Curriculum' look like?

Firstly, children will be welcomed back with lots of positivity! We want them to reform strong relationships with adults and children and feel confident to talk about feelings and experiences. We will dedicate lots of time to Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), physical and mental well-being and fun activities such as outdoor learning and arts which will help children build friendships and feel happy. We will also ensure that every class has time with Mrs Clark, our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant). We will be using our 'Thrive' approach which focuses on children's positive relationships and recognises how their experiences affect their feelings and behaviour. We firmly believe that children will only begin learning to their potential, once they are feeling safe, happy and well-engaged with school.





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Secondly, our lessons will be carefully tailored to meet the needs of the children and the curriculum will be adapted to take account of the learning lost in the previous year group. In some subjects, such as Maths, topics which were missed this year will be slowly integrated into the new year group's learning over the course of the year. In other subjects, such as English, Term 1 will be used to 'fill in the gaps' by focusing on the key learning missed previously. In addition, more children will work in small groups, known as 'interventions', to ensure they make progress on the areas they did not cover during school closure.

How can I help my child?

Your child is likely to feel nervous about coming back to school in September, so try to talk to them regularly about school during the summer holidays. Teachers will post a class 'Welcome Video' and an information leaflet on the school website so looking at this together and talking about it is a simple way to reassure children about starting back.

Once children restart, it is important to be positive about school by talking about their friends, teachers or lessons they most enjoy. This will help them feel more confident about returning. You may also want to reassure them about routines which may be different to usual such as lining up, regular hand-washing or only playing with children from their own class at playtimes. Try to praise children for small achievements such as coping well with the day or settling in well with a new teacher. Academic progress will be really important this year, but aim to focus on settling back first and celebrating the things your child has enjoyed or been proud of.

Is there anywhere else I can go for help?

The following website is all about using our school values at home:

treasures.valuesbasededucation.com/family-vibes/

This website explains the 'Thrive' approach which we use in school:

www.thriveapproach.com/who-we-work-with/parents-carers/

I know that the past few months have been very challenging, particularly for parents, and that we have all had different experiences of the pandemic. I thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to seeing you in September.

Mrs Johnson

Principal





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Children Learn What They Live

by Dorothy Law Nolte

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.
If children live with fear, they learn to be apprehensive.
If children live with pity, they learn to feel sorry for themselves.
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.
If children live with jealousy, they learn to feel envy.
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.
If children live with sharing, they learn generosity.
If children live with honesty, they learn truthfulness.
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

