



or, "here we go again" 😊

Dear Parents,

- 1. New security fencing work to commence during half term** - We are delighted to be able to share with you the plans in place. (Please see attached plans, subject to amendments and final tweaks). In summary form, we plan to increase the green boundary fencing around the school site to avoid easy access for intruders; create an electronic barrier for access onto the school carpark, to avoid unknown cars access to the site and finally, create a single pedestrian access, via the Nursery path, down to the school entrance, with a voice activated pedestrian gate. This will bring our site safety into the 21st century and will further protect staff and pupils, especially our most vulnerable office staff and Teachers who greet visitors, on arrival. As with all changes, they take time and will temporarily require changes.
For that reason, from Monday 22nd February - Friday 5th March, the following changes will be in place:
 - a. Reception and Nursery children will be greeted at the top of the entrance to the car park by staff at 8.45am (or for Nursery children of non critical workers 9.10am). They will then be walked down to their classrooms together by staff. Reception and Nursery children will be walked up to the entrance to the car park each afternoon.**
 - b. Y3 children will be redirected to use the Cranleigh Close Entrance each morning and afternoon (and their siblings can use this entrance also), temporarily.**
 - c. No visitors will be allowed on site between 9.15 and 2pm, unless it is an emergency.**
- 2. Parents of children who wish to attend SMA Nursery from September 2021**, who have not submitted an application yet, need to have their **application in by Monday February 22nd at the latest**. We already **have 26 applicants** so late applicants may find themselves on the waiting list. Governors will rank the applications according to the published criteria and parents will receive confirmation via post or email shortly afterwards.
- 3. Mrs Hayes has initiated a "Dress to De-stress Day"**, next **Thursday 5th February, as part of Mental Health Awareness Week**. We are asking that all children (and their families if they would like to join us) wear a colour that promotes a positive mental health stance. We ask that children can articulate why they are wearing that colour, in terms of hope and positivity. Eg I will be wearing green because it reminds me of long walks in the fields which make me feel calm and relaxed. Mrs Hayes will be wearing red, because she loves poppies and red roses; they always make her smile. Mrs Potter will be wearing her new purple jumper, which always makes her feel warm and cosy. What colour will you be wearing and how does it make you feel better? Have a go, whether you are in or out of school and let's raise our spirits together. **Staff will be planning lessons around positive mental health on that day, so be prepared!**

Home Learning

- Well done to the very large majority of parents who are putting their children first, in difficult times, and engaging with school in a wide variety of ways. **We are proud of your determination to do your best.** 😊 We know that almost all of you are not teachers, don't worry. We also know that **many of you feel a little envious of those critical workers who can send their children into school**. It does seem to be a lack of equality for children. **I understand your frustration** but cannot change the rules, nor put my staff further at risk in these difficult times. However, staff are bending over backwards to recognise your children's needs - sometimes social, sometimes academic, sometimes emotional. To those parents who are receiving additional support, thanks for understanding that the provision goes far beyond just academic learning. It **embraces continuity, co-operation, connectivity, familiarity and strongly promotes an "I can do" approach**. Children need children and children need challenge and praise. To those parents who are accessing the videos and resources prepared each night, thank you for your feedback. Staff also need your positivity for what they are juggling.

Other news-

We look forward to Congratulations' Assembly again tomorrow. And new stories and dance opportunities, next week.

I am over the moon to share with you that our first round of lateral flow testing has demonstrated 100% negative results for our staff. This enables them to continue to work **with your children and for your children, this week, safely.**

Thanks to all parents and responsible adults who are practising social distancing, wearing masks and protecting each other. It is working!

And Finally...

we remember our NHS workers, who face great sadness and a sense of helplessness, currently. We ask that they feel the protection of God our Father in all that they do.

"Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another"