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***Learning and Growing Together***

28 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope that you are all keeping well. As a school community we have all been on a very steep learning curve over the last few months. For many parents, it has proved a testing time. I do understand the challenges and speak from personal experience of having two primary aged children of my own, one who is incredibly engaged with remote learning whilst the other will try every avoidance trick in the book!

For parents attempting to juggle work commitments, organising family time, managing everyday responsibilities and overseeing home learning, whilst becoming a Microsoft Teams expert, a package that I'm sure wasn't originally designed with primary aged pupils in mind, is no easy feat and I know that this has proved a struggle for some, particularly with device and network issues. You all deserve huge credit for the tremendous job that you are doing and for the resilience that you are demonstrating!

It has been lovely to hear feedback from children's work and Mrs Udall has shared with me the many positive communications that have been sent into school. Thank you for this, it really does make a huge difference.

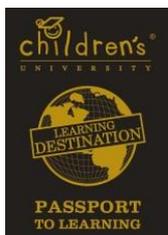
Yesterday, the Prime Minister announced an indicative date of 8th March 2021 as a first possible return date, dependent on the progress of vaccinations and the situation closer to this time. I am sure this disappointed many, as we all crave normality, however the severity and impact of Covid-19 has never been more profound. Schools do not receive any advanced notice prior to news release, but we have been assured moving forward, we will receive a fortnight's notice to prepare for the wider re-opening of school that will be really helpful. Should we receive any prior notice or information we will keep you informed.

It is vital that we continue to work together to overcome the difficult days and weeks ahead and to assure you of our commitment to welcoming your children back to school when it is safe to do so. We will then work relentlessly hard to settle children in, socially and emotionally and address any gaps in their learning.

In the meantime, please remember to just try your best, it is all any of us can ever do. Should you need any help, support or just a listening ear, we are just a phone call away. Many of our days are hard and long at the moment, but this time will pass. Our children are little for such a short time, we must all try hard not to lose this precious time. Take good care of yourselves and each other.

Kind regards,

David Stephens  
Executive Headteacher



2020-2023