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Friday 12th March 2021

Dear All

What a lovely week! It has been great to get the school back together again. We are still unable to do things such as assemblies and playtimes as a whole school, but at least we are all here! I am amazed how we can keep so separate in a school our size. I hope that we are well on the way to returning to a life of discos, Parents' Evenings and Sports' Days.

The *'getting to know each other again'* and the *'remembering what to do when stuff'* has gone really well this week.

Our message to your children is that we are here for them and we want to help them in every way we can.

Our message to parents is that your children kept learning through January and February whether they were at home or at school. They have an advantage over many children across the country because they and you did so well. We all need to build on the positive and not the negative.



Our approach over the coming months...

We are focussing on **'prioritising'** rather than **'catching up'**. The teachers are ensuring that children are secure in the concepts that really matter. As the teachers plan the summer learning journey, they will use the knowledge they have about each child and the class in general, to build on where the children are.

As a staff, our aim is to secure understanding of the most important parts of the primary curriculum. At the end of this academic year the information gained will be vitally important so subsequent years planning can be amended accordingly.

We are mindful of the fact that many children will be extremely secure in many of the most important concepts and we will work to deepen their learning.

Pupils' starting points inform our curriculum planning. As we progress through the summer term, we will address the gaps in knowledge and skills. This regular formative assessment is through:

- observing and talking to pupils in class to assess understanding
- looking at pupils' work

We are and will continue to be responsive to our learners, without any unnecessary pressure of testing.

Unlike many schools, we do not feel we need to '*reactivate learning*' because you at home and the teaching staff in school have all done an amazing job during this challenging time.

The teachers have asked me to pass on their thanks for all your efforts at home.



Well done!

Love, peace and joy to you all.

Kay Bridson

