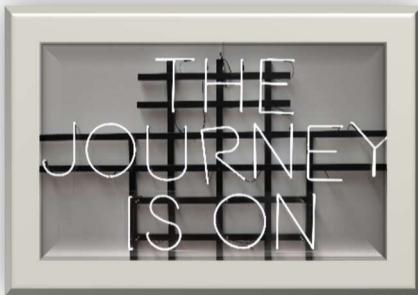




May 2021

Dear Welton Family,

As we head towards the end of the first full half term back in school, I wanted to write to you to say thank you for all the continued support in keeping the community safe and the school open to all. We are very hopeful that we will be able to begin to reduce our measures very soon and operate in more typical fashion. When I contacted the Local Authority Health and Safety Team for an update last week, I was informed not to make any significant changes just yet.



School Improvement

I thought it would be helpful to give you an update on the work of the school towards our OFSTED action and the school's own improvement targets. During the last year, as well as focussing on keeping children safe and remote learning, we have been implementing a rigorous improvement plan. The headlines from this are:

- All the school's improvement work is based on a research model, drawing from the most recent research and developments in effective education for children.
- All the teachers are now very knowledgeable about an approach to teaching that is based on Rosenshine's Principles of Effective Learning. This is a model of teaching that ensures children are introduced to new knowledge using carefully designed learning journeys that secure high success for children due to the many opportunities for independent practice and support when needed.
- The school is working with St Anthony's Teaching School Alliance on some exciting programmes to develop children's use and understanding of language. You may hear the children talking about their SEEC lessons, this is Select (the word), Explain (the meaning of the word), Explore (same meaning, opposite meaning, origins etc), Consolidate (exercises using the word). This work will have a high impact on children's reading and writing.
- The school has been reviewing and updating its curriculum to ensure it is suitably ambitious and inspiring of the children. The new curriculum documents will be saved onto the website when they are finalised very soon.
- The school has been producing knowledge organisers, which identify the learning objectives, key knowledge and vocabulary to be taught for each topic and unit of work. These will be used by teachers and pupils but will also be helpful to parents to know what the children are being taught.
- The school has been using the Education Endowment Foundation Research on Implementation Planning alongside work with our partner school in Leeds, to develop an approach to school improvement for all key areas (Reading and Maths) and subject development by writing implementation plans that guide and ensure high impact cross the curriculum.
- After half term we are reviewing the school's approach to guided reading to ensure children are making the progress they need to.



Look out for



- The parent mail explaining the measures of control for when children bring their reading books home after half term.
- The parent mail explaining the school's belated book day after half term. We have an exciting dressing up theme linked to our improvement work, an in school book fair and reading activities throughout the day.
- Proposals for a series of socially distanced, adapted, year group sports day events.
- Information about the National Online Safety Package

Online Safety and Devices

We have noticed that since the school re-opened, we are experiencing a significantly higher volume of issues around the use of social media and mobile phones. These are leading to high levels of distress amongst the children and having an impact on learning due to the complexity of these issues. **We would like to remind you that children are not permitted to bring phones to school in any circumstances.** In addition, to support everyone in keeping their children safe and happy we are subscribing to the National Online Safety Package which will provide both schools and parents with a wealth of resources and support.



Support for wellbeing and learning

Since we have re-opened to all pupils, we have been implementing a wide range of support packages for children. These are focusing on wellbeing and learning and will continue through the summer term and into the next academic year.

- All class teachers are focusing their teaching on identifying any gaps that have appeared during lock down and planning their teaching considering this.
- There is an emphasis on lessons around emotional wellbeing.
- We have brokered work, both from the NHS SMASH programme and a qualified coach and mentor to work with children.
- We have tutors working in school both remotely and face to face, delivering, bespoke teaching to children.

Respecting our neighbours and our Welton Family

We have had a number of conversations with our neighbours and parents recently and it is upsetting to see how distressed some of them are about the impact some issues are having on them.

- It is really important that we park considerately ensuring that our neighbours can easily get on and off their drives.
- It is essential that the children are supervised by adults when waiting to come into school, we have had several reports of children running onto the roads and some near misses too.
- The number of children with scooters, playing on the pavements before school is causing difficulties for other families trying to use the pavement and we had a near miss reported of a child scooting onto the road whilst playing.
- Most concerning are reports of children entering our neighbours' property both on foot and on scooters and pulling faces through the windows and trampling their plants.

Please support our community. Thank you.



Communication and feedback

Throughout lockdowns, closures, and this term we have developed a range of approaches to staying in touch, listening to feedback, and responding. Thank you to everyone for completing surveys, sending emails, and having conversations via Teams and telephone. Your thoughts and views are important to us and very helpful when considering adaptations, improvements, and next steps.

A final word



The impact of the last year will sadly be with us for some time and we will be working hard to offer the needed support to all our children and families for as long as it is needed. I do believe that communities and families have been strengthened during this time which must put us in a very positive place to build on these relationships moving forward to ensure the Welton Family shines brightly in this changing world.

Mrs Pidgeon