

Good morning everyone

Here we are at the end of yet another milestone, and, as we prepare to welcome everyone back on Monday, I wanted to thank you all again for your understanding, your support and your dedication in ensuring your children continue with their education whether at home or at school. We can't wait to see ALL the children on Monday - and we are sure that some of them will have grown since we last saw them!

We hope you are now aware of our Hammond Heart initiative and that you and your children have managed to make a heart to bring in on Monday to display around the school. We have had the support of the wider community too which has been lovely and I really hope that the sun shines on Monday so that you can walk to school and 'spot' the hearts in the windows of local houses. We are committed to putting children's well-being first as we return to school as we know that children do not learn well if they do not feel happy. We will be keeping the normal structure to the school day, which we know children need at this time, but also ensuring that there is time for them to talk about any worries or concerns they may have.

We suggest that you send children into school 'layered up' with clothes while we are still in Spring and the weather is variable. We still need to keep classrooms well ventilated and it is best to be prepared. Staff will continue to be tested twice a week and there is now the facility for families to order Lateral Flow Tests online for the first time - these can be ordered at <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

We would normally have a parents' evening scheduled in for this term but as it stands I think it would end up being a 'reverse' meeting with you telling US about your child's learning! We will be using the feedback forms you have returned to help us get a picture of how your child has been doing in lockdown and then aim to have parents' evenings in the summer term, hopefully during the first half term. We are going to wait and see what the guidance allows as we think it would be lovely to have these in person, even if they have to be outside. We would also aim to try and start our after school clubs during the summer term so that the children at least have one term when they can attend. But don't forget that if you feel you would like to talk to your child's teacher before parents' evening you can phone school to chat to them - preferably at the end of the school day.

I was in a meeting yesterday when I heard the phrase 'beyond the rainbow' mentioned - meaning a time in the future when all of these challenging times would be behind us. I'm sure that we all long for this time, even if the world as we once knew it might not be the same for some time to come. But we are not there yet - and until we get there let's continue to hold each other's hands and support one another as we follow the path to better times.

With love from
Jacky