



31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Foundation Stage Closure – Thanks again and Next Steps**

Thank-you so much to everyone again for helping us to manage the closure of the Foundation Stage so smoothly this morning. We recognise the obvious inconvenience that this will have brought families as well as the sadness and discomfort that comes when we have to make such a decision. Again we are pleased that attendance across the rest of school remains as high as ever – you will have received a text inviting you to get in touch with us should special arrangements be needed to comfortably bring/collect siblings of isolating children to/from school over the next day or two.

#### **What next?**

You will be pleased to know that following her positive home test this morning Mrs Penn is well and has completed another, more formal, COVID test which we will hopefully have results of within the next 24-48 hours. Waiting for these results, together with the scheduled end of Spring Term tomorrow means **that sadly the Foundation Stage will now remain closed until we all return to school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.**

We will of course share with you the outcome of Mrs Penn's test as soon as we have this. Unfortunately given Mrs Penn's contacts the result of this test may lead to further self-isolation being required. Guidance tells us that any children or adults who have been present unmasked in the Foundation Stage for a sustained time should self-isolate in response to a positive test – this relates to all children and staff from the unit. **There is however no requirement for parents or siblings of these children to self-isolate unless COVID symptoms are seen.** We will let you know if Mrs Penn's latest test proves to be positive.

#### **What about learning from home?**

As you will have seen Google Classroom is active thanks to the work of the Foundation Stage team this morning. Miss Butler, Mrs Penn and the wider team will be posting lots of ideas for you to share with your children. Your thoughts and feedback are welcomed and will be responded to so please get in touch.

#### **End of term updates**

We are keen that the shape of the last two days does not overshadow what has been such a happy and successful return for children in the Foundation Stage as well as the rest of the school over the last four weeks. We are proud and respectful of everything that families and children have brought and look forward to seeing everyone again on 19<sup>th</sup> April.

When we return Mrs Heap will no longer be a member of our school team in the Foundation Stage following a relocation to be closer to her family, a step that she has been planning for well over a year now. She has finally managed to make the move in spite of obstacles that the coronavirus has thrown up, with final steps coming very quickly. We send our thanks and best wishes with Mrs Heap – having been with us for three years she will be missed by children and staff alike.

We are pleased to share that Mrs Sanders, whom many of you may be familiar with from her time in Foundation Stage previously, will be supporting play and learning in the Foundation Stage Unit following the Easter break. We know that she will receive a warm welcome from the children and the team who she is very familiar with already, having been working in Year 1 since our return in September 2020.

#### **Moving Forward**

As matters move forward with knowledge of Mrs Penn's test result over the next 24-48 hours we will be in touch to keep you in the picture. Be assured that we remain alongside you, and whatever the outcome of testing, we can look forwards to the Foundation Stage being open along with the rest of the school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April for the start of our summer term together.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Hampton

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Chair of Governing Board