



22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you are well and enjoying some of the new freedoms the government has afforded us.

It goes without saying that Term 5 has been different. We have all had to change the way we work, communicate, shop and now help our children with their home-learning. I have two boys in years 5 and 8 and am possibly experiencing some of the same challenges you are. It is not easy and certainly not perfect. That said, I find myself reflecting on the positives. They are definitely developing some qualities such as resilience, independence and creativity that will benefit them in the long run. I am also seeing more of them, we are rushing around less and so spending more time as a family. I hope that you too are experiencing some upsides to what is such a challenging period of time.

Developing a programme of home-learning in such a short time-frame has been a challenge and something we continue to review and amend. It has been so heartening to hear of the successes whether it be dedication to learning, home-made drone production, excellent baking, completion of the 5k challenge or the willingness to support the local community.

It now seems unlikely that students in years 7-9 will return to school this academic year. We will, however, continue to strive to make the best of this difficult situation and provide opportunities for your child to learn and develop as best we can. With this in mind, Karen John will write to you with an update on home learning in preparation for term 6.

Life in school is far too quiet without the children; we miss their laughter, enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and sheer vivacity. We continue to have children in every day and they keep the spirit of school alive in some small way. I hope that as time passes we can start imagining a school full of 1450 students once again.

Please keep well and don't hesitate to get in touch if you wish to discuss anything.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Rand
Headteacher

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