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JV 4202

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Newsletter 15

Dear Parents and Carers

Returning to school As you will no doubt be aware, yesterday's government announcement detailed how the start of this term will be structured for both primary and secondary schools. We will be among the 85% of primary schools for whom it will be 'business as usual' as we return to school on Monday. The other 15% of primary schools – the majority of which are in London, Essex and Kent – will be open only to the children of key workers and vulnerable children, with all other children learning from home.

Mass Testing Whilst secondary schools prepare to start mass testing children upon their return to school this term, it is not yet clear when this will take place in primary schools, with February seeming most likely from the information available at time of writing.

Tier 4 I am aware that many of you may be feeling anxious about sending your children into school for the start of term, understandably so: we are now in Tier 4; there is a new strain of the virus and it is not yet clear how children are affected by the virus and how they transmit this strain to others. At this time, there is no additional guidance for returning to school this term. However, the following measures will continue to be put in place and will be monitored with vigilance:

- We will reinforce the importance of good hygiene and social distancing when we are working with the children so that they rebuild good habits at the beginning of term.
- We will ensure that the classrooms are well ventilated. **Reminder:** please send your child to school with an extra layer that they can comfortably wear in class. It is colder now than it was at the end of last term and the windows will be open.
- We are also looking into installing a temporary path on the field so that the one-way system at drop-off and collection can be maintained even in wet weather.

Thank you for your support last term. Please can you continue to help us in the following ways:

- Maintain social distancing whilst on the school premises.
- Ensure that, when possible, only one adult is on the school run.
- If you need to form a [childcare bubble, this is the current guidance](#).
- Abide by all Tier 4 restrictions outside of school – the fewer contacts the children have, the better the chance we have of keeping children in school and healthy.
- Speak positively with your children about the return to school: if they arrive with a positive attitude, they are well placed to learn successfully.

As always, if you would like to discuss any of the above further the please do not hesitate to get in touch via email to the [address above](#).

I hope that you have a very enjoyable New Year's Eve. I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Veness', written in a cursive style.

Mr. J. Veness