

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the Easter break I wanted to write to you all to say 'thank you' for continuing to support our school. We really do appreciate how you have followed the guidance as well as our routines in order to keep all of our school community as safe as possible – it is so important that we all pull together to try to reduce the transmission rates of Covid-19 in Rotherham. Although the last three weeks have seen a number of challenges, the way in which our children have settled back into school life has been remarkable and it has been heart-warming to see children smiling and enjoying being back with their friends and peers. Our wonderful staff have made sure that the children have had a range of opportunities within school to further develop their academic skills as well as making sure their wellbeing is fully supported. We are now looking forward to all our East Dene family being back together after the Easter break.

### **Science Week**

The first week back to school for all children coincided with National Science week and the theme for this week was 'innovation for the future'. Our children were given many opportunities to develop their knowledge of science and they discussed the differences between an innovation and an invention, created poems and developed their STEAM skills by completing a project related to this year's theme. Our younger children created their own ice gardens where they collected leaves and flowers and used their observation and prediction skills to say what they thought would happen to the flowers in the water. Throughout KS1 and KS2 children created their own Robo-bugs, where they researched, problem solved, created and evaluated their designs to meet a certain goal and overcome challenges. They then used a range of materials including our new 3D pens to make models of their designs. It was lovely to see creativeness, effective communication and such resourcefulness around school during the first week back!

### **Uniform**

Once we return after the Easter break and we are all back in school full time, we expect all of our children to be wearing full school uniform, every day, unless informed differently by the class teacher. School uniform makes children feel proud to come to school, as well as looking smart and having pride in their appearance. I am therefore asking all parents to ensure that children return in full school uniform on Monday April 12th. Children not wearing uniform will be provided with spare uniform (wherever possible) and parents will be asked to return this the next day. If you have any concerns regarding school uniform then please contact the school office.

Items of uniform with the school logo on them, including fleeces, polo shirts and sweatshirts, are available to purchase through local suppliers including Jonny Ds (near Rotherham market) and Pinders (In Rotherham interchange bus station), although they are operating a click and collect only order at the moment. Non-logo items are also available from most supermarkets, and we are more than happy for children to wear these items.

### **Illness**

Over the last 2 weeks, we have seen a higher than 'normal' number of children displaying symptoms of cold, sneezing, sore throat and high temperature. As you will also be aware we have unfortunately had a

number of positive Covid-19 cases and I am sure you will join us in sending our love and best wishes to those families affected by this. Please remember that household lateral flow device kits are available to families with primary and secondary aged children and we have been advised that Lateral Flow Devices are available to collect from Herringthorpe Stadium Car Park, Herringthorpe, Rotherham, S65 2HR from 1pm – 8pm 7 days a week. Following the most recent guidance, from the Department of Health, children of primary school age *do not* have to follow the LFT twice weekly testing system. If your child is displaying any of the signs and symptoms of Covid-19 then a Lateral Flow Device test should not be used and instead you should book a PCR Covid Test. The main signs of Covid are:

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

**You can find out more about the symptoms and how to book a test using the following link:**

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

I appreciate all of your support, and if you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact school.

Kind regards



Mrs L Ridge  
Headteacher