

St Mark's Church of England Primary School

Chief Executive of 1Excellence Multi Academy Trust: Mrs Valerie Hall



06.11.2020

Dear parents/carers,

It has been a week of 'firsts' in school and I would like to start by saying a huge well done to Y1 and Y6, who have had to unfortunately isolate, for their efforts with the online learning this week. Previously, we had only streamed lessons into classrooms, but this week saw children being taught via the internet in their own homes. As always with technology, some issues had to be worked through, but over the week, the children have accessed a range of lessons online. I am sure parents/carers will offer their thanks to the school too for ensuring that the majority of the week their children still had a teacher present to lead their learning. For those who were unable to join us, work is still available in the folders on Teams. Do get in touch through the appropriate methods if you still need support with this and we will endeavour to work through it with you.

More thanks go to parents/carers for completing the online questionnaire before half term. Staff have done the analysis of this and we have worked our way through the comments in order to make any changes or improvements, based on what parents/carers have fed back to us. One area raised seemed to be around the homework being online now. We know that this is new, but under the circumstances, schools are legally bound to offer blended learning in the case of bubble closure, so we took the decision to move as much as possible online. Again, talk to us if you have issues and we will try and work through them with you or provide you with an alternative. Another thing that was raised was that there was no parents' evening in the first half term. Historically in autumn term, school have held a 'Meet the Teacher' evening, where expectations for the year are shared via a PowerPoint. Under the circumstances, parents/carers can no longer come into school, so we sent these presentations out and where questions were asked, the class teacher answered them. Individual parents/carer appointments will happen, as always, in the spring. However, you can always contact school should you have anything you need to raise as the year progresses. If the office cannot deal with your request, it will be passed to the appropriate person. Reports for autumn will be sent out before Christmas. We have brought this forward from January based on parental requests.

I hope that you have all received my email earlier in the week reminding you what to do should anyone in the household develop symptoms for Covid-19. I encourage you to read it and keep it to hand should you ever need to refer to it. Alternatively, if you are unsure about what to do, ring or email school before bringing your child in.

Still on the topic of Covid-19, the local authority conducted – on my request – a second visit this year to look at what measures we have in place to minimise the spread of Covid-19. I am pleased to say that they were very happy with what we have in place and have no further recommendations. If parents/carers work with us and communicate timely with us any Covid-19 related matters, we can work together to ensure any outbreak is isolated as quickly as possible. Health and Safety also answered the question I asked regarding ventilation in schools. We do have to keep the building as ventilated as possible, but staff know that if it gets too cold, they can close some doors and windows if needed. We do still ask that your child comes dressed appropriately for the winter weather.

Another issue brought to my attention is that of parking -local residents continue to complain about it. I was sent a photograph this week that showed me a large amount of cars parked in the bus bay and further down that road. I have passed this to the local councillor and the civic enforcement team, who



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are going to look into the problem for us. As with the majority of schools, parking can cause problems, but can we ask that you park sensibly and responsibly please.

Finally, I would like to say a big well done to everyone for a wonderful first week back. The children have loved their learning this week and, as always, have been working exceptionally hard. Please remember to have a look on our Facebook page to see what they children are learning and doing in school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Hindson.
Headteacher.



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