

12th June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week has been a roller coaster of emotions. No doubt you will have felt all or some of the same too.

- **Delight**

We have been thrilled to welcome some additional key worker children back to school. We have been so proud of every child who has walked through our doors. They have been so positive and taken on any changes with a superb attitude. Although routines and lessons are slightly different from before lock down, we have tried to keep as much as 'normal' as possible and everyone (the staff included) have risen to the challenge brilliantly. It is wonderful to have the building buzzing with children's voices and the hub bub of learning once again. We are really looking forward to seeing more children next week as some more Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 children return.

- **Relief**

We are pleased that everything has gone so smoothly. The staff have worked really hard at preparing the school site, including the outside environment, their classrooms and of course the learning. We have tried to achieve a balance between adopting Covid-19 restrictions and maintaining ordinary ways of working. The children have coped well with additional rules and we are extremely grateful to a Year 6 parent, who is a graphic designer, for presenting these so creatively for the children to understand. Please find them attached. Thank you so much Mrs J.

- **Disappointment**

We are so sorry that we have not been able to reopen for all children and appreciate that many still at home would love to be back at school. We are so proud of these children too. They have continued with their home learning extremely well and we love seeing their posts on Tapestry and SeeSaw. Please rest assured that the learning planned for you at home reflects the learning taking place in school very closely. If you would like to do some extra there are some great science resources on the following link <https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Science-Fun-at-Home>

- **Devastation**

We were shattered this week to hear the Prime Minister announce that schools will not be fully open until at least September 2020. As I have written before, headteachers do not receive advanced warning of any plans and sadly I have no idea what will be expected from us over the summer holidays or even in September. As always I promise to pass on any information and our plans as soon as possible.

- **Anxiety**

I know that many people are still worried about so many aspects of the present and the future. Fortunately, there is a lot of help available. Please find attached a leaflet entitled 'Primary Helpful Resources' which signposts a range of agencies providing support as well as highlighting ways of helping yourself and others. Please remember we are always available at school for a chat on the phone, so please give us a call or drop us an email if you would like some support.



- **Thankfulness**

I cannot tell you how grateful I am for all the positive feedback I have received from every parent I have spoken to this week or communicated with via email. It means a huge amount to me to know that our efforts are appreciated and that so many people have taken time out of their busy lives to share their thoughts with me. I am also very thankful for the flexibility that some parents have shown when I have asked them to consider changes for their children. Your measured and reasonable responses have helped us out enormously.

I'll finish on that positive note. Don't forget to read my 'Thought for the Day' on the school website <https://www.willowstimperley.co.uk/mrs-warrens-page/> This week I will be focusing on 'Community Recovery and Bringing our School Back Together,' through the themes of; self-belief, hope, routines, gratitude and community. As always well being and the use of positive psychology is at the heart of all we do at The Willows.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Mrs Warren