



Where Children Come First

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Hello there folks.

I hope that you are all well and safe.

I echo Mrs Barratt's words - it has been a great week at school; the children have settled with a bang and without a whimper - enjoying Science Week and being back in the routine with their besties. It must be said that we have some very tired beauties though; I think a lay-in tomorrow will be on the cards!

I am really on the mend from COVID and feel ready to dive into work, so I will be around and about next week and look forward to seeing you all - albeit from afar.

I want to thank you for your kind messages and emails of support and care over the past three weeks - it's been a horrible time for both me and Ian and they really perked me up.

Maternity Leave: Mrs Barratt leaves us at the end of term to start her maternity leave. It is such an exciting time for us - knowing that another Grange baby is coming into the world. However, a large hole will be left with her temporary departure. Thankfully, we have been lucky enough to bag a great full time replacement teacher in Ms Andrea Hancock who is an experienced and senior teacher with whom I and the Foundation Stage team have worked previously and who knows the school well because of Banbury Partnership work. She is beside herself with excitement about coming to The Grange and because she and Mrs Barratt already have a working relationship, handover will be straightforward. Ms Hancock knows The Grange and gets The Grange, so we are onto a winner. She will meet Cropredy class this term (a few times) and we will make sure that Cropredy class's mams and dads set eyes on her too.

Mothering Sunday: Sunday sees the celebration and recognition of our mothers. This year in particular, we have been reminded of the immense importance, dedication and love of our mothers and the fundamental role they play in the lives of us all - no matter what our age. We salute you all (nannies too) and thank you; Happy Mother's Day.

Thank you to our staff - my gratitude to you is boundless; you have yet again ensured that all of our children's best interests have been catered for this week and the smooth start to 'full return' has been a triumph.

Lastly, after hearing updates from senior leaders pertaining to the return of all the children this week, it cannot go unsaid: you have all done so well during lockdown - although it is early days, gaps in learning are looking pretty minimal and the children have 'maintained'. This is down to parent support and hard work as well as the live and remote learning. Congratulations; you have nailed it.

Our challenges now, are supporting friendships, confidence, well-being, self-esteem, mental health, breaking some unwanted habits, ensuring the attendance of students, and living The Grange Way all the time. This is to be expected and we are confident that we will be completely on track sooner rather than later.

Please note though: attendance of all children who are well and healthy is paramount.



Attendance tracking will be rigorous, and I will be contacting parents whose children have low attendance. Enough time has been had off school this last 12 months and we must seize every opportunity to guarantee face to face time with teachers as well as social time with peers.

I was reminded by OCC this week that COVID is still very much out there. Regardless of whether one has received the vaccine, one must still adhere to 'Hands, Face, Space' and the lockdown restrictions. One can still transmit the virus whether vaccinated or not. It is everyone's duty to protect all individuals.

Have a wonderful weekend all and 'Thank you' again.



Ms Boswell

