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24th February 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

As I am sure you will all now be aware of the Government announcement for all children to return to school from the 8th of March. We are very excited to welcome children back at Heronsgate and are busy planning for a happy and gentle transition into school. We are very aware that for many of our children and families the impact of the pandemic has taken its toll, particularly on our young people.

Our focus in the first week will be on well-being and mental health, along with re-establishing the school's routines and expectations. I know many children have expressed how much they have missed their friends over the last weeks and some children are anxious about being back in the classroom after such a disrupted period of time. This will be our main consideration when settling the children back into school.

I would like to reassure you that Heronsgate will continue to follow the DFE and Health and Safety executive in regards to keeping the children and staff as safe as possible when at school. The protocols and systems which were in place in September will continue to be implemented until we are informed of any changes by the DFE. Next week we will send out a reminder of how the drop off and pick up times at the end of the day are organised. We do not anticipate any changes from the September start unless the guidance from the DFE is updated in the next week or so. We will of course keep you updated of any changes.

E-mails should be coming to you soon regarding school meals and Premier before and after school clubs. We have been informed by Premier that they will be running as normal from the 8th of March and bookings can now be made on their website for breakfast club and after school care club. Crazy Kids will also be operating as normal from the 8th too.

This morning, as I write this to you the sun is shining and the sky is a beautiful blue. Many of us are now feeling that the sacrifices we have made during this pandemic are finally having an impact. This is lifting everyone's spirits and we can see light at the end of the tunnel. Schools are for children and without them school is just a building so welcoming them back in 12 days will be absolutely wonderful! We now need to remember to continue to follow the rules so we don't impact negatively on any future decisions. Families and friends together again, all of the children released from bubbles and able to play with their friends at break times, activities after school again offered, school discos and all of the other things we have all missed so much this last 12 months once again something we can experience and enjoy. I for one will never take these experiences for granted again!

Keep safe and well.

Kindest regards



Jane Edwards
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mrs J. Edwards B.A (Hons)
Deputy Head: Mrs C. Gardner-Potter B.Ed (Hons)

Chair of Governors: Mr K. Gowans
Business Manager: Mrs K. Greenhalgh