

Friday, 1st May

Dear Parent(s) Carer(s),

Schools across England are set to reopen to children in a “phased manner” after the Covid-19 lockdown. Mr Gavin Williamson the Education Secretary stated on the 29th April, “When we bring schools back - and I think everyone wants to see schools returning - they will return in a phased manner,” as all pupils going back at once would not be “realistic or practical”. He also added that schools would be given “plenty of notice.” There are no details as yet from the Education Secretary on which pupils might return first or when but the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has promised to set out next week how schools could safely re-open once lockdown restrictions were eased. As soon as we receive any further information, this will be communicated to you.

The government has also recently announced plans to offer laptops/tablets and other ICT support to children in vulnerable families to help with online learning as school closures continue. As of yet we have not received details of how this might operate, however eligibility for this scheme is limited to children with a social worker and disadvantaged Year 10 pupils.

At the moment schools across Lambeth have had a 35% increase in requests for school support in relation to their children's care and this has placed a heavy burden on the staff we currently have available to us to cover all our rotas in school. This week we have reviewed the needs of all families who are using this service and thank everyone for their co-operation and understanding as we look for the best ways to support everyone's needs in the weeks ahead.

You will no doubt have heard on the news about the Army veteran Captain Tom Moore, who celebrated his 100th birthday on Wednesday. The fundraising efforts which began with a 99-year-old Army veteran walking laps of his garden for charity has evolved into a story that has captured the hearts of a nation and indeed the whole world.

Captain Tom Moore's initial hopes of raising £1,000 by lapping his Bedfordshire garden 100 times before his 100th birthday has now reached a staggering total of over £30m. The effort also led to him receiving over 140,000 birthday cards and £60,000 birthday money which he has also donated. The local school opened all his cards. Captain Tom gave the following response, “It is even more extraordinary that I am doing this with so many well-wishers and I am in awe at the response my walking has had. I am very comfortable and have everything I need. Covid-19 has left so many without, so please donate to those in need.”

This story strongly reflects our own school's mission statement where we aim to nurture, motivate, educate and inspire all children to achieve the best that they can; Captain Tom's efforts have reminded us about the importance of community and that anything can be achieved with self-belief irrespective of age.

We continue to keep you and your family in our prayers and thank you for your continued support and communication.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Connery
Co-Headteacher

Mr. R Coyle
Co-Headteacher