Dear Parents/Carers/Families,

It was a year ago today that we closed the school to most children and began the first lockdown. What a year it’s been. We do still need to keep being cautious and taking the right actions to keep each other safe but I do sincerely hope we are on the way out of this.

I genuinely can’t believe we are at the end of the term already. It feels like we’ve only just got started. The children have returned brilliantly after lockdown and settled straight to their work. We are currently looking really carefully to see where children are in their learning and what support children may need.

It’s been a very odd term but one that the children have managed brilliantly, both adapting to remote learning and then coming back to school on the whole ready and eager to learn. I want to praise the staff who throughout have been magnificent, I also want to say well done to you all for helping your children through this really difficult year. Equally our trust (The Enquire Learning Trust) have been just fantastic at supporting us as a school so thanks to them too.

One of the things we will be doing after Easter is setting up some after school sports clubs for children across school (more details soon) to encourage the children to be more active and also to work and play together.

**End of term**

School will close on Friday 26th March at the normal times with the same end of day routine and the after-school club will run till 4pm.

**After School**

We will be looking to extend our after school hours for those that need it from the first week of May (Tuesday May 4th). This gives us time for school to have settled back into routines after the Easter break, so we can look at how we can make it as safe as possible.

**Reopening for Summer term.**

This is a reminder that school will be closed on Monday April 12th for staff training. School will re-open on Tuesday 13th of April.

**Reading**

One of the easiest ways to support your child to make progress is to make sure that they read every night. Reading is the most important thing children learn to do in primary school and it opens up all other learning to your child throughout their time in school. Please make sure your child reads every night, talk to them about their reading and even better read with them every night.

**Attendance/Covid**

Attendance has been great since we returned (It was 98% last week). There have been a few colds going around, it is however acceptable for children to come to school with a cold.

However, if a child displays any of the main three Covid symptoms (temperature, persistent cough, loss of taste and smell) you should get them tested for Covid and isolate as a family until you receive a result. If they have a temperature, please don’t give them paracetamol/ Calpol and just send them to school.

**Packed Lunches**

We have seen a number of children bringing quite unhealthy packed lunches to school. We will be looking at packed lunches after Easter and talking with parents and children about how to make them healthier. Please think about what you put in your child’s packed lunch.

**Free School Meals Vouchers for Easter**

The vouchers will be available from the office from tomorrow morning. If you could come to collect them on the following days:

Tuesday AM (Year 1), Tuesday PM (year 2)

Wednesday AM (Year 3), Wednesday PM (Year 4)

Thursday AM (Year 5), Thursday PM (year 6)

All vouchers must be collected by a parent. Reception and Nursery parents will be given their vouchers by the class teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support and help through this period. We will soon be sending out a list of proposed dates for events in the Summer term such as sports day and leavers performance. We hope that we will be able to go ahead with these events and we also hope that the school can become more and more “East Whitby” as we move through the summer term.

Regards

Mr Smith