



29.05.2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you'll be aware, the 1<sup>st</sup> June and return to term time from half term holidays marks a distinctive change in the current educational guidance whereby some of our school community will be returning to school. Whilst these changes will only affect a small number of our pupils, I know that the return of some of the teaching staff to school may be a cause for concern for those of you remaining at home. After a great deal of consideration and careful planning with the staff, I am able to write to you to reassure you of our aims when it comes to the education of your children over the next half term.

With a number of teachers returning to school, some small elements of change are inevitable but we will continue to do our best to mitigate these. For many of you, you will only notice very small adjustments, if anything, detailed below.

### Planning

We will continue to be sending out planning, exactly as before, on a Friday to be used for home learning the following week. All resources and help will be appearing on the school website and class Seesaw accounts in the same way that you have become accustomed to. Children who are returning to school will be learning from the same plans and taught in the same way by their 'bubble' teacher. Please note that plans for the week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> June will be sent out with this letter.

### Marking and feedback

All teachers, whether at home or school, will still have access to their Seesaw accounts. Because of the increased workload imposed by a return to school, you may notice a slight decrease in the length of feedback given to pupils, but this will all be managed by your child's normal class teacher who knows them best. If you require help throughout the day from a teacher in school, please continue to email or message your child's normal class teacher and they will contact a member of the team at home if they are unable to respond quickly to you. At school, pupils will be using a school provided exercise book which will remain at school for the term. Whilst the teachers will be unable to provide written feedback in these books due to chance of cross contamination, they will be able to provide continuous verbal feedback from a safe distance.

### Zoom

We began Zoom sessions with our pupils because we felt passionate that pupils at home should have a chance to interact with their peers and class teacher in a relaxed way, on a weekly basis. This remains our priority. As such, I apologise that a small number of classes have had to change their slots from times sent out in previous correspondence. This is to allow for class teachers in school to be available to speak with their classes. We acknowledge that many children in school will miss out on this opportunity, but will hopefully gain a lot from the social interactions in school. We hope that even though some of these will have to be out of 'normal' school hours, many of the children learning from home will still be able to join in. The new timetable is as follows:

Ash/Rowan	Tuesdays, 1:30pm	Hazel	Tuesdays, 10am
Beech	Wednesdays, 11am	Sycamore	Thursdays, 9:30am
Chestnut	Fridays, 12 noon	Cedar	Fridays, 10:30am
Larch	Fridays, 1:30pm	Oak	Thursdays, 4pm
Elm	TBC – Mrs Baxter to contact Elm class	Willow	Tuesdays, 2pm

### **Friday afternoons**

In line with guidance and statutory expectations, all teachers will be provided with PPA time (for planning, assessing and preparing resources among additional responsibilities) from 1pm on Friday afternoons. During this time, teachers will not be contactable.

Please rest assured that we aim to keep current arrangements for home learning close to what you have become accustomed to, and that learning in school matches as closely as possible to that at home. Our teachers are working incredibly hard to ensure, as much as is feasible, that experiences for all families are kept as similar as possible regardless of family circumstances. Please do remember that, no matter how the next few weeks and months pan out, all pupils have experienced the same changes to their education and will be in a very similar position when 'normality' resumes, which will be taken into account and planned for by their teachers.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs M. Ward". The script is cursive and somewhat informal.

Mandy Ward

*Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Lead*

[cedarclass@rackham.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:cedarclass@rackham.cambs.sch.uk)