28 January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

Following various government announcements this week, I would like to provide you with a school update.

**School Re-opening Update**

You will have heard the government announcement this week that schools in England will not re-open before Monday 8th March. This is the earliest date that students will return to school but I must stress that this date is not confirmed. The government hopes that it will be safe enough for students to begin returning to school from this date – this may be on a staggered basis or may depend on rates of transmission across the country. We will of course keep you informed as soon as we receive any further updates. In the meantime, we will continue to provide remote education and support for those students learning from home.

It is likely that we will be instructed to carry out asymptomatic testing in school before staff and students return and I would like to thank you for responding to our emails, asking for your written consent to testing your child. This will enable an efficient and quick school response once we are given the go-ahead to re-open. Please can I urge you to respond to the email you have received if you have not yet done so.

**February Half Term: 15-19 February**

The government has announced that schools will **not** remain open during the February half-term break, which runs from Monday 15th – Friday 19th February. Please note that there will be no online lessons taking place during this week and school will be closed.

The government has also stated that schools will not be providing lunch parcels or vouchers during the February half-term for those children eligible for Free School Meals. However, there is wider government support in place to support families and children outside of term-time and this is coordinated through the local authority. Those families who have responded to school to “opt in” to this scheme will receive food parcels for half-term through this locally co-ordinated scheme. Vouchers through Edenred will resume once again after the half-term break.

**Remote Learning Update**

Our teaching staff are working tirelessly to provide a full timetable of remote lessons for students and it has been a pleasure for us to recognise those students who are engaging with this so positively. Our Remote Learning Rock Stars are nominated each week by their teachers for their commitment to learning – well done to you all and keep it up!

Please can I stress that it is an expectation for **all** students to attend online lessons every day, as they would do in school. I appreciate the challenges of home-schooling and do not underestimate the difficulties this can bring. However, lessons should not be seen as “optional” and I would ask you to do all you can to

encourage your child to be up and ready each day to attend tutor time and daily lessons. Please contact your child’s Year Leader if you have any issues with your child accessing remote lessons.

**Weekly Enrichment**

I am delighted that we are now able to offer wider enrichment opportunities to support students at home. There are now twice weekly PE enrichment activities taking place after school– see our website or contact school for details. These, and other suggested weekly activities, are a great way to make sure that students remain active during school closure and provide some time away from a computer screen.

For Year 7 children, Ms Dawes is providing weekly reading sessions where students can enjoy “The Wizards of Once” together. These take place at 1pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – please encourage your Year 7 child to join Ms Dawes and the Year 7 team at these times.

**Contacting School**

As always, should you have any general questions or need to contact school, please telephone 0151 652 1574 during core school hours in term time and leave a voicemail if your call is not answered. You can also contact school on offices@birkenheadparkschool.com or your child’s Year Leader via the email addresses on the school website.

We will be in contact again as soon as there are further updates. In the meantime, please take care and stay safe.

With very best wishes.



**Mrs Johnson**

**Headteacher**