

4th May, weekly message to parents from Elizabeth Kitcatt

Schools re-opening

I know that parents are starting to think about how schools will re-open, as are we. At the time of writing, we still do not have guidance on this from the government, but it seems there may be more clarity later this week.. Some parents have contacted us urging caution and expressing real concern about the potential risks of children returning to school too soon. Others feel there is no doubt that a partial return to school would be beneficial.

It is certain that, whenever schools do return, the re-opening will need to be gradual, and we will only be able to teach a smaller than usual number of students at a time. This is because we must do everything possible to preserve social distancing and minimise the risk of infection. While research shows that children generally have Covid-19 mildly or not at all, we don't know much about how they may spread the disease, potentially making families and other adults, including staff, more vulnerable.

While we wait for announcements we are considering how we can make the re-opening safe, manageable and effective in terms of students' education and well-being.

Update on remote learning

We have been reading and listening to feedback from parents and students about home learning; thank you for letting us know how it is going. Over the next few days we will make some adjustments in response to your views; aiming to provide guidance about how much schoolwork to do each day, help for younger students with organising their time and making sure emails from teachers are spread out and do not overwhelm our students.

A few parents have said they would like more video learning, and several teachers are providing this. However, not all teachers are comfortable teaching in this way, and the school is not insisting that it is offered.

Friday News

I hope you have had a chance to read the Friday News this week and have seen the work our students are doing. Please keep encouraging your children to send items in - it's a real pleasure to see what they are doing!

Finally, quite a few of our students seem to be developing their cooking skills at home, and so I thought you might enjoy reading and sharing this resource from the Jamie Oliver Cookery School.

Online cook alongs for the £15 free school meals budget
The [Bite Back 2030](#) Team – a youth led movement - has launched a daily online cookery class run by a leading chef at the Jamie Oliver Cookery School and supported by the Laidlaw Foundation.

With best wishes to you all,

Elizabeth Kitcatt