



Monday 12th April, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Hope that you all have had a good Easter break, enjoyed a well-earned rest and didn't eat too much chocolate!

May I offer a warm welcome back to Ravenshall School and, as we move into the start of Summer Term 1, I would like to share with you the latest updates and plans that have been put in place for this next half term.

As you would expect (and despite a pandemic!) Ravenshall School lives up to its 'Outstanding' status and has continued to make amazing progress this year. Staff, Governors and parents are always trying to do things better for all our children and young people, so there has been no relaxing on our improvement journey and strategic planning for the future.

Firstly however, I'd like to update you on the Governors' work to appoint a new Headteacher which is continuing into April and May. They are working alongside a recruitment agency to ensure that the right person is appointed to fill the role. It is hoped that the successful candidate will start after the Christmas holiday, and I am pleased to let you know that I will be staying at Ravenshall until this happens, so there will be no disruption to the leadership of the school.

We have recently added to the school's highly effective Leadership Team through the appointment of Amy Keen, who now leads the Primary department. She replaces Charlotte Maclean who has been appointed to the position of Inclusive Provision Co-ordinator. Charlotte's new role will oversee our ambitious strategic plans to improve the EHCP process and build better links with our key professional partners. Being steered and monitored by a member of the Leadership Team will ensure the highest standards and outcomes for children and families.

Good Luck to both Charlotte and Amy in their new roles.

On another note, staff have welcomed back all our students on a full-time basis before the Easter break and expect to be teaching the full curriculum on our return this week. Keep checking your child's Dojo messages so that you are fully informed about what your child will be learning and what activities they will be doing this half term. I can assure you that it's likely to be a busy one!

Whilst everyone is looking forward to the easing of some restrictions regarding Covid19, clearly we will be paying great attention to any new Government guidance which impacts schools. Most of the staff at Ravenshall will be having their 2nd dose of the vaccine very shortly and we continue to undertake weekly LFD tests for all staff and eligible pupils.

In addition to this, our sanitising regimes, social distancing, selected pupil 'Bubble' groupings and strict safety policies remain as before, ensuring that we are doing everything possible to keep safe -

both in and out of school. This will be reinforced with all our students this week, especially as some activities may now take place outdoors, for example walks/bike rides in the local area. Your child's teachers will keep you informed and updated with any new curriculum changes.

You also should know that teachers have continued to gather a wealth of information regarding your child's progress and achievements. This will remain a key focus in ensuring that teaching is personalised to match all pupils' needs and inform next steps. This will be shared later this term in our 'new look' reporting to parents format. Mr Owen will send more details to you all, later this term.

I am going to end this letter with some positive news from one of our School Improvement Partners who conducted a Quality Assurance review of our 'Remote/Home Learning' education. His review included speaking to parents about their experiences and thoughts about the virtual learning offer we provided during school closures and pupil absences due to isolation or shielding.

He reported that parents were grateful to staff for all their input and were especially pleased that teachers shared their child's individual targets with them, so that everyone was involved in the learning process. We were also delighted to learn that parents loved learning from the staffing team themselves; reporting that many of you are now much more confident in the use of some of our specialist resources, such as Widgets, Numicom and Makaton.

Thank you so much for your feedback and we will try to build on this for the future!

Keep checking the website for updates from the school, and in particular, the weekly sharing of Class Blogs. They are a great insight into the life of the school and our students like to celebrate their hard work and fantastic individual achievements.

Very best wishes from everyone at Ravenshall School

Regards
Jeanette Tate
Headteacher

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