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25th February 2021

Dear Families,

Monday's news has now confirmed that all children will be returning to school on Monday 8th March. The Executive Team and Academy Heads have all met to ensure that we are all clear about the expectations for this return. There are very few changes for primary aged children and so we are confident that we are ready to reopen to all children.

Preparing your child for returning to school

With just six days of home learning to go before the lifting of lockdown for primary-aged children, it may be tempting to 'down tools' as the end is in sight! Here are some ideas that may help you:

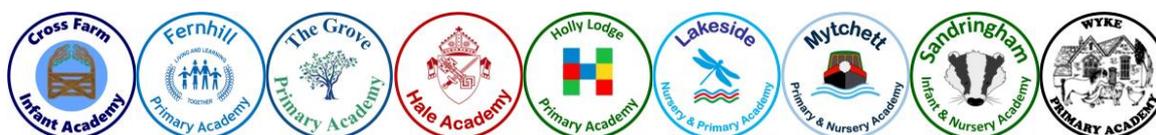
Getting your child ready for the return to school

- Set a routine in place – eat well and get the right amount of sleep.
- Remind your child about what the school week routine looks like. Also remind them the importance of handwashing and how grown ups will be wearing face coverings at school.
- Talk about what your child is looking forward to. Seeing their friends, being with their teacher and LSAs, having a larger space to play in outside, learning away from a screen.
- Is there anything they are worried about? If so, talk it through with them. Importantly please inform your class teacher about any worries so that they can support your child over the next week.
- Keep on reading – read to your child, listen to your child read, look online for new authors, try out an audiobook together, talk about books over meal times.
- Practise number bonds and times tables.
- Make sure your child feels secure by spending quality time together – create some happy memories.
- Build up independent skills that may have fallen by the wayside – getting dressed in the morning, getting their things ready for the day's learning in preparation for getting their bag ready for school; chores like helping around the house will prepare them for being helpful in the classroom.
- Be physical – it will be hard to sit back at a table again or to sit on the carpet to listen. Build up core stability by getting outside, walking, climbing trees, cycling.

Through our survey about remote learning, a significant number of parents requested further support from the Trust. With an end in sight and a return to school in less than a fortnight, you may find this free online training course for parents in supporting children with their learning at home helpful: you can pick aspects that you feel will be of most help to you

<https://www.guideeducation.co.uk/parentsupport>

Home learning/homework will return to be an integral part of your child's learning journey once they are back in the routine of attending school. We will aim to give you some top tips on "How to continue supporting your child with their learning journey" and link these to motivation and independence in due course.



DfE guidance and video released 15th February: 'Supporting your Children's Education During Coronavirus'

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-your-childrens-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19?utm_source=16%20February%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19

Online Safety

There have been several issues in local schools regarding a site called Omegle. I would urge you to read the attached article and talk to your children about this. Items from the site are being shown on TIKTOK and it can look attractive to children as a way to meet new friends. The site is set up to talk to strangers. We are aware that the police have had to become involved in a safeguarding issue linked to a primary aged child in a local school. Do talk about the site with children at home, especially if they ever have unsupervised access to the internet. Several Parent Information videos are available on Youtube and an information flyer is attached.

Attendance

The government is very clear that all children should be in school unless they are ill. Please ensure that you follow the procedure of ringing the school at the start of the day if your child is unwell. If this is Covid-related it is very important that the school is informed promptly so that we can take precautionary action to stop any spread of the virus. We will inform families if they need to self-isolate because of this.

Bubbles

We will continue to operate a bubble structure where children will remain in class bubbles with specific adults for the whole week. This was very successful previously and we want to ensure that we are keeping both staff and children safe by continuing with this regime. We will continue to close for staff to have planning time on a Friday afternoon for the rest of this term but we would like you to complete a short survey to let us know your views for continuing this into the summer term. Please click on the link below to access the survey:

[Friday Afternoon Closure Survey](#)

Bubble closures

Although schools will have fully re-opened, bubble closures may be necessary. We will continue to provide remote learning for children that are at home. It is important that your child completes the learning that is set. Similarly, children may need to self-isolate and they too are expected to complete home learning if they are not unwell.

We look forward to welcoming all of our children back and thank you all for your support during this last lockdown.

Yours sincerely



Christine Dickinson
CEO, The Kite Academy Trust