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12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the first week back at school, I wanted to say how lovely it is to have our school community back together. I know some of the children were a little nervous about returning which is perfectly understandable after such a long period at home. The latest period of lockdown was much longer than any school holiday! However, they have settled in brilliantly and keep telling me how much they are enjoying being back with their friends!

I haven't sent out a list of dates as it is of course difficult for us to arrange school events at the moment. The hope is that as the COVID situation improves, we may be able to arrange some events for later in the summer term. We will continue to follow government guidance to ensure that everyone is as safe as they possibly can be and hope that restrictions will permit us to hold some of our outdoor events like Rose Day and Sports Day with families in attendance!

We do still have lots of extra activities taking place in school for the children.

NMPAT is working with our year 5 and 6 pupils on a project that is designed to support pupils' mental and emotional wellbeing as they return to school. The 'Music for Wellbeing Project' includes mindfulness, singing, listening, creating exercises, movement, body and found-object percussion work. This started this week and will continue for an hour a week over the next 5 weeks.

Chance to Shine Cricket will deliver a whole school virtual assembly to the children on Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>. They will then run some taster cricket sessions outside for years 1 and 2. Each class will have a 45 minute session. For four weeks after Easter, Chance to Shine will deliver weekly cricket coaching to pupils in years 2, 5 and 6 during their Tuesday afternoon PE sessions.

On Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Bikeability will take place in school for our year 3 and 4 pupils and for years 5 and 6 during the week beginning March 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is optional and those parents who want their children to take part have already completed the paperwork and received information regarding arrangements.

March 19<sup>th</sup> is also Red Nose Day. Noses will be on sale in school from Monday March 15<sup>th</sup> at a cost of £1.50. Please can the children give their money to a member of staff in their class rather than bringing it to the office. The correct money will be helpful as we do not have cash in school in order to give change.

March 19<sup>th</sup> is a very busy day as it is also the FOOPS mufti day!

On Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, some of our year 5 pupils will take part in some virtual sports leadership training in preparation for taking on the role of Sports Crew members next year when they are in year 6.

On Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> it is **"Silly Sock Day"** which is in aid of Autism Awareness. It will be optional for pupils to take part but if your child would like to, they can wear silly socks to school (maybe odd or brightly coloured ones) for a minimum charge of £1 which will be donated to Autism East Midlands. Silly socks can be worn over or instead of tights or with trousers tucked into them. Boys or girls who choose to wear trousers



HEADTEACHER: MRS J MARDELL



may wear different trousers with their uniform on that day if they are easier to tuck in! Other school uniform should be worn to make those silly socks stand out!

FOOPS are also planning to hold class Easter bonnet parades for the children on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

We will of course continue to provide extracurricular opportunities for the children within an environment which is safe for everyone. FOOPS also continue to work to enhance the children's school experience, despite the restrictions, and as a school, we do really appreciate their continued hard work and support. We aim to ensure that all the children continue to feel happy and safe at school and enjoy their primary years, despite the current pandemic. I had an interesting chat with some of the children this morning about how when they are older, they may well be asked to go into schools to talk about what life was like as a child during the COVID-19 pandemic. They related this to when they had listened and chatted to adults who have been here to talk about life during the war. It was interesting how they felt quite excited by the prospect; the realisation that they are part of what will be an important period in future history books and lessons.

We break up for the two week Easter holiday on Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> and I wish you all a lovely break with your children. No home schooling to be done so some sunny days to go with those light evenings would be wonderful!

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JMardell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Janice Mardell  
Head Teacher