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Date: Friday 8th January 2021

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Reflection

Today did not get off to a good start. I realised that in all this chaos I had missed my mother's anniversary. My anxiety about staff, pupil and parent well-being was heightened and I did not behave in the most Christian like way to those I encountered. So to all those I may have slighted, ignored or been less charitable to than I should have been, I am truly sorry.

The following reflection is very apt for the current situation and I may have used it before but it is truly inspiring!

Doctor Alexander Fleming was breeding germs in his laboratory as part of his research into diseases. When he returned from holiday on this day in 1928 he saw the lid of one of his bacteria cultures had fallen off. A piece of fungus had blown in through the window and the bacteria around that fungus had stopped growing or been killed. This was the first steps in the development of 'penicillin'. When he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1945 he acknowledged that chance and coincidence had played a great part in this great discovery.

He said,

"There are thousands of different moulds, and there are thousands of different bacteria. It was chance that the mould was in the right place at the right time.

Let us pray that we too are in the right place at the right time with the right attitude:

Lord,

give us each day the wisdom to recognise which things are important and which things are not.

Show us how best to use the time and talents you have given us.

Help us to use all opportunities wisely that we may give service to others, the good gifts we have received from you.

Amen

WELCOME TO 2021: Happy New Year. On behalf of myself and all the staff I would like to thank you for your generosity and warm wishes before Christmas. I do hope that you were able to enjoy Christmas. I don't think any of us celebrated Christmas in our usual way and I know that many of you were separated from family which is really difficult, especially at Christmas.

The New Year has not had the positive start that we were hoping for. However, the production and distribution of a vaccine gives us some light at the end of the tunnel. Let us look forward to a time when we will be able to be together and hug the people we love.

LOCKDOWN: Here we are again! These have been the most difficult times for everyone. We really feel for parents who are once again at home trying to deal with this situation. I know how difficult this can be and the increase in remote learning is proving to be very challenging for everyone. I would like to try to explain what we are doing and why.

REMOTE LEARNING: The government are continuously updating their guidance to schools and putting pressure on schools to meet very challenging targets. One of these is around remote learning. The government say that **schools have to provide at least 3 hours of remote learning a day for pupils in years 1 and 2 and 4 hours a day for pupils in years 3-6.** As you well know a task that would take one child 20 minutes could take another child an hour. We have not based our remote learning on how long it will take but on what we have prioritised as being beneficial to children. We will aim to set the following learning activities everyday:

- Times tables
- Spellings
- Handwriting
- An English lesson with teacher input
- A maths lesson with teacher input – either the class teacher or an Oak Academy Lesson
- One or two foundation subjects a day. These include; science, humanities (history or geography) ICT, art, music and French (for the children in year 3 to 6). Some of these also have teacher input.

Some of the programmes we use which require passwords are MyMaths, Purple Mash (ICT) Letter-join (Handwriting) and phonics for the younger children. We understand that this is a lot for you to get used to and that this may take you some time.

PLEASE DO NOT PANIC OR GET STRESSED ABOUT THE LEARNING. We are all learning together and know that some children will not be able to complete all of these tasks all of the time. Your child will not be penalised if all the learning is not completed.

We aim to develop and improve our provision all the time. Next week we will be moving over to using Google Classroom and Google Meet for our remote learning for year 2 to 6. We hope that the teacher registration time and teacher lesson inputs will enable your children to be more independent in their learning. Please make sure your child is dressed and ready to learn and that you are on mute until your teacher speaks directly to them. The government have stated that "the remote education will include recorded or live direct teaching and time for pupils to complete tasks and assignments independently."

We will continue to record the lesson input and provision will be reviewed on a weekly basis.

Teachers will continue to communicate with you via ClassDojo. If you have any difficulties logging into a programme please contact your class teacher. If your child is struggling or becoming frustrated put the learning away and come back to it at another time. For some children short regular bursts of learning work better than prolonged time at the computer.

Please do what you can but avoid adding more stress to your day. The online registration is a nice way to start the day and for the teacher to engage with the children.

If the learning that is being set is not appropriate for your child's needs please contact your class teacher.

IN SCHOOL PROVISION: We now have over 100 children in school who meet the criteria for school based learning and requests are coming in every day. We are doing our best to accommodate those most in need but unfortunately we have had to say no to some families. We are not comfortable doing this as we firmly believe that the best place for children is in school. However the R rate has increased enormously in Greenford and therefore it is essential that we try to keep numbers to a minimum. This is not because school is an unsafe place but to limit household contacts. Please only request a place if you are a critical worker and have no other means of childcare or if you believe your child is at harm by being at home.

We will do everything we can to support you at this time. Please just ask.

Due to the volume of work required by teachers to manage the remote learning, teachers are unable to be in school teaching the children full time. Although the learning taking place in school is the same as that at home it is being led by cover teachers and teaching assistants. It has not been possible to have the same member of staff in your child's class every day.

If your child has secured a place in school please remember the following:

Start time is between 08:40am and 8.50am. The gate will close at 8.55am.

End time: Staggered Finish

3.10pm Year 1 and Year 2

3.15pm – Reception and Year 3

3.20pm – Year 4

3.25pm – Year 5

3.30pm - Year 6

Children should arrive promptly as we do not have capacity to collect late pupils and the office will be closed.

School uniform or school PE kit must be worn.

School Dinners will be available if required. Alternatively provide your child with a packed lunch.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: We will be stopping After School Club at the end of next week as it is only being accessed by one or two children each day and is not viable. Sorry for any inconvenience this will cause. We will continue to provide Breakfast Club.

THANK YOU to everyone for your kind words of support and appreciation. Please be assured that we are doing our very best in these very challenging times, with the continuous last minute changes made by the government, vague and limited guidance and lack of communication. We will try to keep up with the changes and keep you informed of any developments.

May God keep you safe from harm today and always!

Miss K. Coll / Headteacher