



“Where A Love of Learning Grows”

4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope that you all had a relaxing Christmas break even though it was probably a very different one to usual. This is a situation like no other that we have ever had to face and myself and all the staff genuinely appreciate your support and recognition of the job we are trying to do in continuing to educate, support and care for your children. Thank you for your role that you played outside of school hours too which enabled us to keep everyone safe and remain open for the whole term. Let us hope that this continues.

In light of the recent developments in the media, I felt it was important to write and keep you up to date regarding the start of the Spring Term. As it stands today, we will be re-opening to pupils, as planned, on Tuesday 5th January. We will continue to use the staggered opening and closing times which have been in place since last year.

I am very aware, that parents and carers may well have significant concerns about current infection levels and the prevalence of the new variants of COVID 19. I would like to emphasise that we have not yet received **any** details or information from either the Local Authority or the DFE regarding these developments. Indeed, the only information we have had access to, is that found in the media, much like yourselves.

Therefore, in the absence of any detailed information, the school has decided to continue following the procedures set out in September with a few amendments, which are:

- On PE days, children will come to school dressed in their PE kit
- A book for Home Learning will be sent home tomorrow. This is for in case there is a Lockdown or your child needs to isolate. Please complete work, which will be set via Seesaw (Evidence Me in Reception), in this book to aid presentation. It is vitally important that you ensure you can use Seesaw for this so please contact your teacher for extra support if needed
- Extra lines have been painted on the playground to aid the children in maintaining distance between the bubbles
- I will also be reviewing the Risk assessment
- I will be reviewing our key worker register so please let the office know if you would need one of our limited spaces

As we are sure you will understand, this is, once again, a rapidly changing situation and any arrangements that we make may well be disrupted or changed with little notice. I sincerely apologise for the uncertainty but will do our very best to keep you informed and updated as soon as we have any more information. Ultimately, the safety of the pupils and staff is my number one priority, and we will continue to do our utmost to ensure that they are happy and safe in our school.

On another note, I am delighted to be able to write my first letter as the new Head teacher of Upton Snodsbury C of E First School. I feel extremely honoured and privileged to have been chosen to continue to build upon the successes of the school.



For those of you that don't know me, in 2015 I was appointed as the Year 3/4 teacher, prior to this I spent over 11 years in two other schools in Worcestershire. Being a mother of two girls, I am very much aware of the responsibility that my staff and I have in ensuring that the highest standard of teaching and learning is achieved. We have a hugely committed team and wonderful children, which of course, is a great place for any new head to start!

The academic, social and moral needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making within a school. I strongly believe in providing the children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education. I am also keen on building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience. As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school. Unfortunately, due to the current climate, I am unable to invite you in to school but please do not hesitate in contacting me.

You can be assured that as Headteacher, I will strive to create the best education for your child/children whilst they are members of our school family.

Thank you for your continued support and with the unwavering support of the school team; I am extremely excited about the journey ahead. We have managed to navigate such difficult times together over the past year, and we are sure, that with your support, we will continue.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Mayo

Headteacher