



12th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have made it to the end of spring term 1 having achieved a great deal as a school community. Thank you to all the 170 parents who joined us on Tuesday night for the Parents' briefing. Later on in this letter are the answers to the FAQ from that meeting. If you asked a question related specifically to your child you will have received an email or phone call already from the appropriate member of staff.

## Updates

### FSM

All families who are in receipt of FSM will receive their voucher for half term on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February. We have then been notified that our Edenred ordering system will be open again on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for an order for two weeks' worth of vouchers to cover up until Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

### Road safety for your children

As many of you will be aware several months ago I petitioned Kieron Mallon (our local councillor) to improve road safety along Springfield Avenue. The 20 mph flashing lights we asked for have already been installed and I am now pleased to see in the Banbury Guardian that the extra pedestrian crossing I requested will be installed over the half term break, along with improvements in the pavements along Springfield. I am really pleased that our voices were heard and we have been responded to so promptly.

### Literacy and reading

We have created a Wykham Park Online Library for students to access for free on their devices. It includes hand-picked fiction, classic literature, non-fiction and audiobooks and offers a wide variety of titles to appeal to students in all year groups. Explore the library through Google Slides and complete the short book review through Google Forms at the end. We'll share our favourite reviews!

<https://www.wykhampark-aspirations.org/remote-learning/reading/>

<https://www.futuresbanbury.org/remote-learning/reading/>



## **FAQ from Parent briefing Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

### **When will we be having parents' evenings?**

It is our intention to wait until the government has announced two things:

- a) How we are going to return to school
- b) What the arrangements will be for GCSE and A level assessments this summer

We will then schedule parents' evenings in. It is likely that they might still be virtual if social distancing is still the order of the day. We will be looking to hold events for our exam year groups in the first instance and then to hold parent meetings for the other year groups after Easter.

### **Will we be getting any reports?**

As you are aware we have just had our assessment point 3 and therefore we will be in a position to begin distributing reports which will detail for KS3 students whether they are on track in their subjects and a score for engagement over the lockdown.

### **Why are we getting messages about our children not being in live lessons?**

Our remote learning offer is centred around us delivering live lessons for all and therefore if our online registers show that a student has not attended two or more live lessons in a day we flag this with their parents. The registers are automatically generated when children join the classroom and records how long they stay in the lesson.

We appreciate that there are many reasons why a student is not able to join a live lesson (e.g. internet dropping out, illness etc), however, we are expected by the DfE to record daily attendance and to make parents/carers aware if children are not accessing the learning they are entitled to. These messages are for your information so that you can better support your child in keeping up with their peers. Please talk to your son/daughter about which lessons they have been unable to access if there is a problem. All live lessons are recorded and the recording posted in the Google classroom so that they can be accessed after the lesson.

If you are still having issues with insufficient devices in your household or intermittent internet connection etc please let us know. There may be something we can do. We still have 5 dongles that people originally said they wanted but now no longer need. They will be allocated on a first-come-first served basis.

### **Is my child doing more work than when they are in school?**

We are following the planned curriculum which is available on the website. Therefore, no children are doing more work than they would on a normal day. Having surveyed students we feel that they perceive they are doing more because it takes longer to do work on paper and then upload a photo to the classroom.

For KS3 students there is one period a day for catch up on independent work.

We are also not setting homework for KS3 or KS4 students (unless they are doing Geography/Spanish at Futures in Year 10).

## How can my child get help if they are struggling with their learning?

If your child is struggling in anyway at all there are various things they can do depending on the issue

- a) If accessing live lessons for a technology reason is the problem then please get in touch with school and we will try to help
- b) If the issue is that they don't understand something in the lesson they should ask the teacher for help in the usual way during the live lesson or email the teacher afterwards. If they don't know how to do this then they can ask their mentor for help too.
- c) In some classrooms an LSA is joining the Google Meet and working in breakout rooms with small groups of students, directed by the teacher.

## How do we know if our children are doing well in school?

We have several modes of communicating regarding children who are excelling in their remote learning. Last night in the parent briefing I mentioned that where children have been "green across the board" you will have received a letter saying how well they have been doing. This data is held on an internal "engagement" spreadsheet which staff complete weekly after children have had opportunity to submit their work in the Google classrooms. Staff are also currently nominating students for awards for the assemblies in the first week back after half term. There will also be certificates (bronze, silver and gold) coming out to families once we have completed all work this term and student engagement has been updated on the spreadsheet.

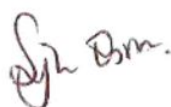
In assemblies staff also provide "shout outs" for students who have been working well on a regular basis in their subject. You will only get to know about these if your child attends the assembly and then reveals the fact that they got a shout out to you – we all know what teenagers are like about sharing the positive praise they might get. However all assemblies are posted in your child's mentor Google classroom so you can ask them to show you the assembly and see the shout outs.

## Week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Please note that for KS3 students **Period 1** all week will be their opportunity for working independently on any tasks that they failed to complete the previous day.

I wish you all a safe half term break and a welcome few days away from their screens for your children. I am hoping that in my next letter to you I will be able to give you some more positive news about a return to school sometime in spring term 2.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Sylvia Thomas  
*Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus*