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Head of School: Helen O'Brien

Wednesday 10th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the last half term of the school year, a very different one than we are used to. Usually we would be preparing for our Y6 to move on to their new high schools, finishing children's reports and enjoying spending lots of time learning in the sunshine. This year this needs to be done a little differently so hopefully the information below will give you an outline of how the coming few weeks will look.

Home learning

Families where children are continuing to learn from home will have a home learning review arranged with their child's class team and a school senior leader. This will be an opportunity for everyone to discuss what is working well and what may need to look a little different over the coming weeks. It will also be an opportunity for us to re-engage professionals who children usually work with and ensure that whilst at home your children are still receiving the entitlement set out in their EHCP, where reasonably possible. We have been thinking creatively about how we can continue to maintain the strong connections that the children have both with the staff and other children and have some exciting ideas! Mrs Cawood is busy working on The Orchard's Olympics and more info will follow about that. We absolutely love receiving photographs and videos of all the wonderful things that the children have been doing so please, please keep adding these onto Dojo. They are keeping us all going in these difficult times.

End of Year Reports

At the end of the school year, you would typically receive an annual end of year report which celebrates the achievements of your child during the academic year. Well...no-one can say this has been a typical school year however we know that your children have achieved lots of new things whilst at home and also when they were at school. Therefore, after careful consideration, we will be providing every family with a report which celebrates children's achievements both in school and at home.

Transition's

Any transitions whether it be to a new class, a new school or a new building is tricky for our children and I know that some of you are worried about what that may look like without the children being physically here. I want to assure you all that we are constantly thinking about this and creating plans in that background for each and every child and family. With the continued uncertainty around Covid-19 it is very difficult to provide plans too far in advance but please know that planning for your child has begun and it focuses on ensuring that their emotional and mental well being is at the centre of everything that we are doing.

Year Six

We are worried about you the most! We want to try everything humanly possible to ensure that you are able to transition to your new schools successfully and with the celebration of your time at The Orchard's that you deserve. We are thinking of creative ways to celebrate the end of your time in school so watch this space!

Finally, we would like to express how grateful we have been to all our families for the support they have given us. From the emails of gratitude and encouragement, the delivery of treats here and there, the beautiful photos and videos of the children enjoying activities and the sharing of good news stories – yes we have had a few babies born during this time (congratulations to those families)! You are our heroes and we love working with you.

Please remember we are here for you and will always be in whatever capacity you need.

With kindest regards and gratitude for being awesome, Helen O'Brien (Head of School)



TOGETHER WE WILL
Challenge the ordinary
Promote individuality
Be advocates for change

