

I hope you are keeping well and taking those tentative, yet very welcome steps into a more normalised way of life as we progress on the government's roadmap journey.

The school is certainly full of life with a real buzz across the community, epitomised by the great conversations and interactions that are happening at drop off and pick up times. I have my fingers crossed the wet weather gear can go away soon. Welcoming everyone to the Beacon will be even better in the sunshine!

Nearly all of our pupils have returned to school this term and we have been thrilled to welcome everyone back, especially those we have not seen for some time.

As I mentioned in my last letter, therapists and professionals have safely returned to classes and are providing a direct service to children and young people across the Beacon. All care is still being taken not limit contact, wash hands regularly and wear masks where social distancing can't be maintained.

A small number of classes who have been functioning as singular bubbles have now formed bubbles across two classes. This is so we can increase the social interactions and share expertise across classes. We are working toward subject specialists starting to move between classes in the near future.

All staff and most of the secondary aged pupils who signed up for testing are now accessing COVID home based testing kits. A few pupils are accessing testing on a Monday and Tuesday mornings in school, but this is decreasing and we will be writing to you in the near future as testing moves to a home based system.

If your child/young person is currently accessing testing in school and you would like to receive home testing kits, then please contact the school office asking for Loren Freeland or alternatively please email covid-19@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk.

We have a number of key dates for your diaries:

- Race for Life- 9th June
- Reports- the week commencing 21st June
- Achievements- the week commencing 21st June
- Staff Training Day- Friday 25th June (no pupils in school)
- Sports Day- Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th June
- Parents consultations from the 28th June – 16th July (to be booked with the parent/carers).

At this moment in time, the only events that may be open to parents and carers could be sports day on the 29th and 30th June. **We still are not yet able to confirm with certainty whether or not you will be able to attend any of the events in person.** We will make a judgement call nearer the time, taking into consideration the risks and climate with regard to COVID at that time. If we are able to welcome visitors to this event, then we would like to make you aware in advance that we will be asking you to exercise discretion in the number of household members you choose to bring with you.

The students will participate in events within their usual class bubbles, competing for their house team. It is essential that all students taking part wear their coloured house t-shirts on this day.

Trips are starting to happen off site, these will be fully risk assessed to ensure compliance with the government guidelines and to ensure the offsite locations are following the rules. We have held two “pilot” trips to outdoor venues where we have been the single occupants and where we are able to socially distance – we have even cleaned down park play equipment for the children prior to them using it and afterwards- being good citizens as ever!

Thank you to the parents and carers that have helped review parent consultations. As a result, we will be maintaining the flexible approach to hold these very valuable and meaningful reviews with you from the 28th June. Early next term we will begin them with you. We have enjoyed the flexibility of having a longer time period to complete these, allowing a better quality of discussion and in depth exploration of your child/young person’s learning and engagement.

We are going to keep with the staggered drop off and pick up times until the end of the academic year. The start times are **8.55am for Taxi and organised transport drop-offs** and **9.15am for parental/carer drop off and independent travellers** (pupils walking or cycling to school). Keeping to these timings has really helped us keep everyone as safe as possible, but more so has eased congestion and meant less frustration with long waiting times.

Many thanks, enjoy your half term break.

Yours sincerely



Ady Young
Headteacher