

9th April 2020

Good afternoon everyone

I thought I'd send a short message to our whole community today to wish everyone 'Happy Easter'!

It's going to be a very different Easter holiday this year, of course, but I hope you all have a lovely weekend, and that you are together with your families, whether physically or remotely. It's a time, even in normal circumstances, for reflection, togetherness, thankfulness and, for many in our community, prayers and devotion. This year, we are all at home; some of us will be anxious or worried about loved ones; and all of us will be looking after others.

All of us, too, will be hoping that we are able to move out of lockdown soon. We have all seen that the number of new cases has been quite steady over the last two weeks, and I know we are all hoping that the numbers fall again like they did today, and that we can come out of Alert Level 4 in the next 2 -3 weeks. We are currently planning carefully what this will mean for the school and for your children, and as soon as we know when this will happen, and what restrictions will remain in place, we will write to you with details about it. I'm mentioning it now because it's important for us all to look forward, and to let you know that we are ready for the next stage. We know that things will be different, and we will be ready for the 'new normal'. This includes in the three areas mentioned today by the Prime Minister: contact tracing, physical distancing, and personal protective equipment (PPE). I include hygiene measures and resources such as sanitiser and disinfectant as part a School's PPE.

Just to be clear about this: we are planning for a move to Alert Level 3 after 4 weeks or soon afterwards, as we have been since the start of lockdown. As soon as we have the exact details about what this will look like, we will write home to explain how it will work at Pinehurst.

In the meantime, our teachers are currently having a well-deserved rest, I hope, and will be planning to make a few small changes to our online programmes when Term 2 starts on April 20th. We have been listening to parents, reflecting on our own experiences, and will be doing a few things slightly differently.

Finally: as ever, feel free to contact me with questions and comments: I'm not going anywhere!

My best wishes to you, to your family and to the whole Pinehurst community. I'll be back with more details next week.

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