

15 April 2020

Good afternoon everyone

I hope you're all well, and enjoyed a peaceful, uneventful Easter weekend filled with chocolate, a little wine and celebratory food. Many thanks as well to those of you who have written to me over the past few days.

I thought I'd give you a quick update today about our planning for the next couple of weeks. You'll see that it's pretty general at the moment, for obvious reasons, but I thought it would be useful if you could see the kinds of thinking that we're doing, and have an idea for when we will be able to give you more detail. We are hopeful that we will move out of Level 4 next Wednesday, and so have been planning with that in mind.

Today, Wednesday 15th, I met with our 'Plan Ahead Team' and we developed further our plans for the school's physical reopening. These can't be finalised until the Board have approved them, and until the Prime Minister tells us how we can operate at 'Level 3', but we are ready for any of the likely scenarios. Our plans include significantly increasing the precautions we will be taking to stop any potential spread of infection, a combination of part-time and full-time attendance at school for different groups of students, and developing a "hybrid" of face-to-face and online teaching. I can't go into more detail about these plans now, but we know that we have the capacity to make the changes we need to make, and we think that they will work really well for our students. Our starting point is to try to meet the needs of all students, both those who can be in school, and those who can't.

Tomorrow evening, the Board will meet to consider the planning that we have done. The Chairman of the Board should be able to write home to the whole school community to give more detail about our plans on Friday.

On Monday afternoon, after the Prime Minister's announcement, we will write again to all parents to confirm exactly what we will be doing if we are indeed coming out of lockdown in a week's time.

In the meantime, Pinehurst School Online starts again on Monday. Mrs Coxon, Mr Verryt and your teachers will be writing home before then to talk through how this will be working next week. Please write to your teacher or teachers if you have any questions at all about school next week: they are more than happy to respond and answer your questions.

And don't forget to pop into our Facebook page if you're short of ideas to keep the children occupied!

As ever, please feel free to write to me with any questions you may have.

Warm regards

Alex

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