

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! I hope you and your children had a good half-term break and were able to recharge your batteries.

As we all know, most of this calendar year has been extremely challenging for the school team, and the last half term especially so, as we adjusted to ways of working in class that no school teacher has ever experienced or, indeed, would ever want to experience. We also had to deal with Covid-19 cases on the staff, which required us to close for a time. Thankfully all the affected team members have recovered well.

This weekend, the picture changed again. For now, schools are not being ordered to close, but we should be aware of the risks to the excellent school provision we all want and aspire to. I'd like to make three brief points about those.

First, as last half term, it is practically impossible for the school to guarantee a full staff complement at the moment. Aside from other, more routine reasons, team members may need to be absent to self-isolate or look after their own children that have been sent home. Inevitably, this means we need to reorganise some of our provision to match what we can actually and safely deliver, and to help children catch up from lost school time in the spring. This is no easy task, but Jo will keep you up to date as far as she possibly can on what is a constantly changing position.

Secondly, whilst we will all work to minimise the risk that the school experiences further Covid-19 cases, it could of course happen again. Quite aside from the extensive protocols that the school and Anthem have developed and continually seek to improve, any outbreak requires the involvement of the local health protection team as well as the Department for Education, who direct whether the school needs to close. They also prescribe what the school needs to send to parents which, I'm afraid, accounts for the impersonal and perhaps disjointed nature of some of the messages that the school had to send out over the last six weeks. All I can ask is that you understand the position and bear with us.

Finally, the current situation is really stressful for all of us – as teachers, parents, carers, other supporting professionals. At JKPS, our first priority is to keep providing the children with the best education we can in line with the school's vision, subject to the requirements imposed as a result of the pandemic. That means we all need to be responsible and do our bit to keep the JKPS community safe. It would greatly help Jo and the school team if you could, during this time, (a) be extra thoughtful about your behaviour around the school gate and online, (b) ensure that you follow without discussion the requests of the school in terms of distance, masking, and hygiene, and (c) understand that it may not always be possible for staff to reply to your questions as promptly as you or they might wish.

I hope we can all work together to achieve an uninterrupted and successful second half term.

With thanks for your support and best wishes,

Peter Johnson

Chair of the Local Governing Body



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