



ENGAINES PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER

Spring term 2021

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Confident
Happy
Empathetic
Resilient
Inquisitive
Supportive
Honest

Dear Parents/Carers

What a start to the year we have had! Following a non start to the spring term where we were given one day's notice that National Lockdown number three was commencing and the children would not be coming back to school, we had to adapt to another period of uncertainty. We then had to adjust to remote learning! The majority of us found that very difficult. We were fully aware for our families, it was a very difficult time trying to juggle working from home alongside completing the children's work, particularly for those with more than one child. For us as a school, no one had ever thought we would be trying to teach the children while they were not in school. We also had to juggle teaching the keyworker children in school as well, so it has been a huge learning curve for us all. As the term progressed, we listened to the issues and concerns our families were experiencing, making alterations to the way we set work. Of course we could not please everyone, as circumstance were different for all families, but we tried our best to work with you to make things bearable, as best we could.

Then came the day we were all allowed back into school! The children settled back into school life very quickly and it was evident they had all missed the social interaction with their friends. We felt it was essential to address the children's emotional and social wellbeing and have eased them back into school using a range of engaging activities, spending a lot of time completing tasks outside. After the Easter break we will continue providing wellbeing being activities and giving the children the opportunity to talk about how they are feeling which we know is so important.

Throughout the summer term we will continue to have staggered arrival, departure, break and lunch times. The children will remain in class bubbles and there will be no mixing within classes. This will be the case until we have confirmation from the DFE and PHE that it is safe to mix within school. Following our robust risk assessment has prevented any bubbles having to close which is amazing; most schools in the area have had to close at some point in the last year. If we do have a case of COVID in school, remaining in bubbles will reduce the risk of having to close the whole school. Can I also remind everyone if you or a member of your family is showing signs of COVID19 you must remain at home and phone 119 to arrange a PCR test. If this happens over the Easter holiday, please can you email admin@engaines.essex.sch.uk. As a school we have a legal responsibility to inform the relevant authorities of any cases we have within the school community.

We are really looking forward to the summer term. Warmer weather, longer days and hopefully the decrease of COVID in our area will allow us all to start to return to a more normal life. We have our new summer menu which is on the school's new website. We are still in the process of uploading all the information you need so please bear with us. We will soon have all curriculum information uploaded as well as class pages where you will be able to see what the children are doing in class. We have made changes so it is easier to navigate around the site and find the information you need. **If there is anything you have concerns about or need answers to, please contact the office with your query and we will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible. The office contact details are at the top of the page.**

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the whole school community. Working together is the best way for us to get through these uncertain times. Thank you for all your hard work during the national lockdown and thank you for your support in abiding by the rules, adhering to the staggered times and wearing masks while around the site.

From everyone at Engaines, we wish you all a lovely Easter break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 13th April 2021.

Cherry Curle Headteacher