

Dear Parents & Friends,

We seem to be at a turning point. The news is much more positive regarding the pandemic, with infection rates falling and the number of deaths reducing. The Government has declared that it is now safe to re-open schools fully on March 8th, and people are beginning to make plans for the summer ahead.

Amongst all this positivity, you may actually not be feeling particularly positive yourself. I suppose that when the crisis first began, there was a 'call to arms' and a collaborative understanding that people would be feeling anxious, stressed and tired. It gave us all permission to express our feelings and, dare I say it, not function at 100% capacity. In short, people understood if we were feeling a bit rubbish. As the pandemic progressed, our lifestyles changed. While these changes brought their own stresses, they also removed certain worries. A 'social laziness' has become the norm – no dinner party etiquette or stressing about turning down unwelcome invitations. (Who knew that not visiting the mother-in-law could actually be perceived as the right thing to do?) No decision making about holiday destinations or having to organise family trips. Actually, it's ok just to stay right where we are. Even having the children or partner at home, while stressful in some ways, is comforting in others, and we are never 'home alone'.

Well, all of that is starting to change. 'Normality' is set to resume. However, for many, the positivity in the media is a bit grating. We may be as anxious about the next few months as we were about the initial pandemic. Our 'end of the world' existence, which still feels a little like playing some virtual reality game, is reaching its conclusion. A little bit of us thought we wouldn't make it to the end of the game, and that was quite liberating. We may not be sure if we remember what normal is, or how to engage in it. It seems that there is as much of an effort involved in getting back to reality as there was entering the pandemic in the first place, and we are tired.

If any of the above resonates with you, then you are not alone. The mutual understanding and support that has enabled us to continue through the pandemic has been wonderful to see, but our anxieties have not evaporated with the arrival of the vaccine or the opening of facilities. It is important that we continue to support each other, taking forward our refreshed vision of community far into the future. At Stubbins School, we look forward to working with you collaboratively as we once again welcome all the children back into our classrooms.

School Opening on Monday March 8th.

We are delighted to welcome all the children back into school on Monday March 8th. It is important to note that attendance at school is mandatory from 8th March. All children must attend unless they are ill, have a medical appointment, are shielding or they or someone in their household has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for coronavirus.

I will be sending a letter out, by email, to all parents & carers on Monday (1st March) which will outline our plans. Perhaps the most important message is that we are ensuring that children spend the maximum time possible learning. In order to achieve this, we are reducing the time it takes to drop off and pick up children, and all children must be in school for 9am. Children arriving after this time will receive a late mark. In addition, school uniform will be enforced, so please ensure that your child is ready for the 8th.

Look out for the letter on Monday, which will provide further details. If you have any concerns about your child re-starting school, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Stay Well ☺

Mr. J. DANSON

To receive this Newsletter by email, simply contact head@stubbins.lancs.sch.uk.