

17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are the end of what has been a very busy and fun-filled term. It was wonderful to see all pupils return in September and they all quickly settled back into the school routines as if they had never been away.

It was a relief to be able to begin to return to a near normal and be able to reopen our specialist rooms and the hydrotherapy pool, as we know how valuable they are to our pupil's education and wellbeing. Unfortunately, as the situation has changed nationally, the impact has been felt in school and as you are aware we have had to temporarily limit the use of shared rooms and close the pool. We hope to be able to reopen these in the new year, but the health and safety of all is our top priority and will always be at the forefront of all decisions made.

In September we welcomed Dave and Ben. Ben is our new music therapist and Dave leads music intervention groups every Friday. Both have settled in really well and have enjoyed getting to know and working with our pupils.

Over this course of this term, we have had to say a few goodbyes as staff have moved onto ventures new. We were sad to lose Lieghann, Nadia, Montserrat, Julie, Laura, Antony, and Kathie, but we wish them all the best of luck in the future. We have also had to say farewell to James who has moved over to Forest Approach.

We are, however, delighted to be welcoming back Larissa and Katie who are both returning following maternity leave. We would also like to congratulate Narcisa who has secured the post of class teacher. She has been working in the school for a number of years and will take the lead in Weir Class from the start of January.

As we are all too aware Covid is still very much in the community. It is therefore recommended that everyone continue with regular testing throughout the break and we kindly request that staff and pupils take a lateral flow test before returning to school at the start of the new year, regardless of whether they are displaying any symptoms. If your child cannot tolerate a lateral flow test, we suggest that a parent/carer take it instead. If your child tests positive, please inform the school. This is to protect all members of our vulnerable school community.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy new year. We hope you all have a safe and healthy holiday, and all get to spend the festive season with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Yours faithfully



Vicki Fackler  
Headteacher

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