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Dear Parents and Carers

25th March 2021

As we approach the Easter holidays, I would like to thank you all for your continued support during these challenging times. All children successfully returned to school, from the 8th March and have quickly settled back into the routines they thrive on and were missing. We are now awaiting further guidance from the Department for Education, as the government review the latest data. Hopefully, this could enable us to organise at least some of our traditional Summer term activities. We will update you, as soon as we are able to do so.

In addition to our weekly newsletter, I have detailed below some key information and reminders, ahead of the summer term:

Track and Trace

As we have put into place for the last two school holidays, please see the additional letter, which explains where we would need to track and trace pupils, following a positive Covid case being identified before Easter.

Households and bubbles of pupils, students and staff of schools, nurseries and colleges: get rapid lateral flow tests

The DfE have asked schools to share this information with parents regarding the above and continued testing over Easter:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results [online](#) as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

Booster Groups

As you may be aware, the government are providing schools with 'Covid Catch Up funding', to enable us to support any learning lost due to the pandemic. The remote learning via Tapestry and



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Google Classroom, was highly successful where children engaged regularly. This has lessened some of the impact on learning.

However, since the children have returned to school, we have been in the process of assessing pupil's work, to identify any gaps in their knowledge and understanding. As a result of this, after Easter, we have set up a series of 'booster' sessions before and/or after school, to support any children who we believe would benefit from some additional support in English or Maths. This will be by invitation only, letters will be issued after Easter.

We will monitor the success of this and, if effective, look to continue these groups into the next academic year. This may involve different groups of pupils, depending upon their progress.

Uniform and standards

During our period of partial opening, both the children and staff have been wearing clothing which was practical and easy to clean/dry on a daily basis – rather than a uniform. The guidance states: *We would encourage all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniform can play a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, nor do they need to be cleaned using methods which are different from normal.*

I am aware it has been a difficult time regarding school uniform, with children returning having outgrown their rarely worn clothes and shoes. However, we are now at a point in the year where uniforms and shoes are replaced for the final term. A number of pupils have been wearing inappropriate boots and brightly coloured trainers. We want to see all children in the Stonebow uniform and have attached our uniform policy as a polite reminder of what we expect. Clothing should be labelled with your child's name to ensure lost property can be returned to the owner. Children are still able to wear an additional layer if needed, in ventilated class rooms, as the weather gradually warms up.

Lunchtime & Playtime snacks

A healthy schools award is given to schools who provide a nutritious, well balanced midday meal to children, it celebrates the positive actions that schools are delivering in terms of healthy eating and physical activity. Stonebow is proud to receive this award – however, we need to maintain our high standards.

If parents wish to provide their children with a homemade packed lunch we would like this to be nutritious, contain fruit as a healthy dessert and not chocolate bars. Healthy lunches provide energy to learn and promote children making good food choices in the future.

Polite reminder:

- We are a nut free school, no peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches are allowed in packed lunches.
- Please provide a water bottle each day.
- Please provide a spoon for yogurts etc.

This extends to playtime snacks, where staff have noticed crisps, various bars and savoury snacks being eaten. Children will only be allowed to take out a piece of fruit for their snack at playtime – this is provided daily in EYFS and Years 1 and 2.

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Sun Safety Guidance

A liberal spray of the 8hr variety of sun protection (e.g., SOLTAN 'Once') should be applied AT HOME before school. This should give the majority of children sufficient protection until the end of school.

If necessary, children with skin conditions, prescribed medication or allergies, should bring in their cream to be applied at midday. It MUST be clearly labelled with the child's name and must not, under any circumstances, be shared with others. The cream must be applied by the child – staff are not able to apply sun cream directly to children's skin.

We ask that children do not bring sunglasses into school. A sun hat and water bottle are additional essential items too!

Parents Evening Feedback

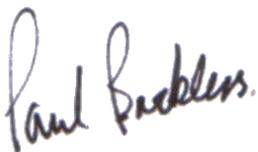
Once again, thank you for embracing another 'remote' technology during this period. Feedback from staff was positive, despite one or two technical issues. We will set up a Weduc survey for feedback on this, after Easter, should we need to continue meeting remotely in the future.

Attendance expectations

From the DfE guidance – From Thursday 1 April, all Clinically Extremely Vulnerable children should attend early years provision, school, college, wraparound childcare and out-of-school settings, unless they are one of the very small number of children under paediatric or other specialist care and have been advised by their GP or clinician not to attend.

I hope you are able to maximise your Easter holiday, following the relaxing of some restrictions from the 29th March. I look forward to seeing the children return under our current arrangements, on Monday 12th April.

Yours sincerely



Paul Brockless Head Teacher



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