



## HOWLETCH LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### SEPTEMBER 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, I'd like to say a huge thank you for working with us in establishing the new systems and routines for your children. We have had a very good start to the term with over 96% attendance which is marvellous. Thank you for getting your children to school at the specified times it is a great help to us. The children have been settling well into the new ways of working. The staggered entry and exit times, plus the staggered breaks and lunchtimes, have meant that the staff and pupils within each of the year group bubbles have been kept separate and safe.

#### **ZOOM ASSEMBLY & WRITING COMPETITION**

I have been doing assemblies on Zoom and this morning I gave out the weekly behaviour and effort and achievement awards virtually! Mr Sutherland's class got the class of the week award for showing kindness to each other during this first full week back. They were awarded dojo points which all classes are using as a reward system this term. I have also launched a writing competition which all pupils have been invited to enter by submitting a piece of writing or a picture depicting the things they have learnt and enjoyed during lockdown. The closing date is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September and there will be a prize for each class.

Thank you to those parents who have raised a couple of important issues as follows:

#### **PARKING & CAR PARKS**

Please think of everyone's safety when you are driving into and out of the car parks. This morning there was a near miss at the KS1 entrance as someone reversed onto the pavement. At the Sainsbury's KS2 car park the children need to feel safe when crossing the zebra crossing. Please bear this in mind when you come into and leave the car park and keep your speed to a minimum. I am always fearful that there will be a serious accident next to the school and would appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep the school community safe.

#### **CONGESTION**

We do try to get the children into school as quickly as possible but with short intervals between year group bubbles there is always going to be some congestion. Can I politely ask that if you wish to continue conversations with other adults after dropping off your child or whilst you're waiting, can you please move away from the gate and steps area to enable others to get into school safely whilst observing social distancing as much as possible. Thank you.

#### **COVID 19 symptoms.**

At present we are following government guidelines issued to us and will be sending home pupils who have any of the main symptoms of coronavirus such as a persistent cough, a high temperature or a loss of sense of taste and smell. I know that this can be frustrating when there are also likely to be flu and colds on the increase due to the changing weather but I also hope you understand that we have to be vigilant and err on the side of caution. If you are unsure as to whether or not to send your child to school, please contact a medical professional for advice or ring **119**.

Thank you once again for helping your child to settle into the new term. It has been wonderful to see the school busy and there has been a lot of laughter and also many moments to celebrate already. Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents into school for appointments at present but please ring or email school to arrange a call back or to make an appointment if you have anything you want to discuss with either myself or another member of staff.

Best wishes

H Adair.