

## Life is settling down nicely

Hi everyone, I hope you are all well and now settled into the routine of school life. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of September and heading into the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the school year. It has been brilliant to see how the children have adapted and they're enjoying life in school. I have just a few messages for you all this week and I'd appreciate you taking the time to read them. Thanks as ever for your support under current Covid-19 guidance. I know things can change very quickly!!

## Parents Evening

I'm hoping by now you have been contacted by your classteachers to arrange a telephone parents evening. This will be an opportunity to talk about school life, how well your child has settled and also to help you deal with any issues, worries or concerns you may have. I know this isn't an ideal way to conduct a parents meeting but by having a chance to talk early on means we can ensure the children are well settled as quickly as possible into the school year. I am also available for you to talk to if you wish to, please just email me if you would like to talk about any issues in school.: [head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk);

## Year 1 & Year 2 Collection Time

As a polite request can I ask that we don't have so many people arriving before the pick up time for Years 1 & 2. At 3pm when we open the gates we have a lot of people who have arrived early and this then makes social distancing very difficult to manage on the school grounds. If people can arrive between 3 – 3.15pm in that 'window' it helps to stagger the number of people arriving to collect their children and means we can all socially distance safely.



## The Thin Blue Line...

You will notice coming to collect children in the evening that we have painted a blue line around the building. This is for the parents and carers of children being collected in Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6. From this week we would like all parents and carers to stand behind this line so you are near to the school field and not too close to the building. This helps us when we are sending the children out to you in the afternoons and means you are not too close to the building and other people. Please can I remind you all to leave school as quickly as possible once you have collected your child.

## Contingency Planning

Obviously at the moment we are trying to contingency plan for all possible scenarios as a result of the Covid-19 challenges. One of these is what would we do if either myself or Mrs Gill (Deputy Headteacher) had to self-isolate for up to 14 days. As we work closely together it may even be that we both have to isolate at the same time which means the school could be without the Headteacher and the Deputy. Don't panic though, before the teachers all decide to close early and go home, we've come up with a plan!! Obviously both Mrs Gill and myself would be contactable at all times however in school, Miss Jones (Assistant Headteacher) who works supporting mainly Y5 & Y6 would be the acting headteacher for that time and then Mrs Carpenter and Miss Fellows would share the deputy headteacher role between them for the morning and the afternoon. I'm hoping this won't happen but need you all to be aware in case it does.

WHAT IF...?

## SeeSaw

During the lockdown period from March onwards many of our families managed to access home learning online and there was a lot of very positive and successful communication between school and home through a program called SeeSaw. This is something we want to continue to use this year and during your parents meeting conversation, your child's classteacher will talk to you about this and we hope it is something you will embrace and use to further support your child's home learning but also used as a wonderful way to communicate between school and home.

## Learning and Support Post Lockdown

Now that we are fully settled into life at school and how things are going to be for the near future, it has also given us an opportunity to see how the children's learning has been impacted upon during the 6 months prior to returning to school. It is clear that the children have some gaps in their learning knowledge and this is something we are now working hard to address. The government have also announced that they will be giving us some extra funding to help support children across the school. We are currently planning what this might look like in specific year groups. Once we have a clear plan we will, of course, share this with you all.



## Bikes & Scooters

I absolutely love that so many of our children come to school on a bike or a scooter; it is such a healthy way to travel as it gives the children some valuable exercise but also helps to reduce parking outside the school. Can I just please remind all children that they must come off their bike or scooter as soon as they enter the school grounds. These are to be walked to the bike sheds and again at the end of the day the children are to walk them out of school too. It just makes school life less hectic and safer when the children walk them out too. Thanks so much for your support in this.



## Hand Washing and Sensitive Skin

I know that as we increase the amount of hand washing in school and the arrival of the colder days we have seen an increase in the number of children who have dry hands in school. I'm aware that over the winter months, the children's hands are going to become increasingly dry. We are currently researching to see if we can buy some hand moisturiser that will help protect the children's hands during the winter months. Once we have done some research we will inform parents and carers of this. In the meantime if your child is suffering with really dry and irritated hands, please come and talk to Mrs Gill or myself in school first thing in the morning to see if we can help and offer any advice.



## And Finally...

Thanks so much everyone for your increasing and positive support over the first month of our new academic year. I cannot tell you how much it is appreciated that when we put a plan in place you all wholeheartedly support it. The wearing of face masks yesterday was a brilliant example of that and honestly it means so much as it shows how much we all value keeping not only our children, but our entire school community, as safe as possible.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, you can always come and find me in the mornings or after school out on the playground or feel free to email me at the following address:

[head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:head@deepointprimary.cheshire.sch.uk);

Keep smiling everyone, the children are loving school life again, which is the best news in the world!!

*Kind regards*

Dave Williams (Headteacher)