

Hartsfield JMI School

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Dear Parents/carers

Return to school-the weeks ahead

Now that we have a confirmed return date for all children of 8th March, I am sure you are joining me in a big sigh of relief. We all want the children back in school, now that the local and national infection rates have fallen and more adults are being vaccinated.

After weeks of teachers and parents working together to support learning from home, some normality is in sight. From speaking to parents, it appears that many children, knowing they are coming back imminently, are now struggling to get motivated regarding home learning. We can all empathise with that and would encourage you to balance wellbeing and the avoidance of 'battles' while encouraging children to complete some activities in the days ahead if they can, ideally prioritising maths and English based activities.

Over the next few days, please let your child's teacher know if you have any concerns, questions or comments regarding their return to school via the class emails. We want to start back on the 8th March fully prepared and having that dialogue before then will allow everyone to 'hit the ground running'.

That dialogue will replace the imminent parent/teacher consultation evenings that were pencilled in for mid-March. As the children will have only been back a few days, we are moving the meetings to mid-May (4th and 6th May) allowing for 3 weeks in school before and after the Easter break. This will give the children time to settle socially, emotionally and academically and for the teachers to be in a position to share meaningful information on assessments completed and the progress (academically, socially and emotionally) children have made to date. These meetings will be online as they were in the Autumn term with an added facility to have 2 parents online from different devices at the same time. As usual we will be sending out formal written end of year reports in June/July.

All national assessments have been cancelled however please be assured that we will, as always, be working hard to ensure children make accelerated progress in the weeks and months ahead. Considering the social and emotional needs of the children is essential and therefore we will not be using terms like 'catching up'. Our children are all individuals and are often at different points in their learning to their peers. We are in extraordinary times and all children and families have been affected in recent months and so we are all in this together. Please reassure your children that school will be as it has always been, with no additional pressure to do more than their best.

In practical terms, I am working with the team to get everything in place for the children's return and will share some final logistics next week. It is likely that we will continue with what we had in place in the Autumn term regarding start and finish times and the children will definitely be learning, playing and eating in their year group bubbles until further notice.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Philippa Smith
Headteacher

