

Headteacher: Andrew Denham

office.3127@standlake.oxon.sch.uk

5 November 2020

Dear Parents

As we start the second national lockdown, we find ourselves having to sacrifice some of the things that we take for granted and enjoy, such as seeing friends, family and colleagues and doing exciting things.

We continue to review and reflect on our COVID Risk Assessment regularly and have done so again during the last 48 hours.

It is with a heavy heart that we have decided to put on hold the guitar, piano and iRock music lessons for the duration of the lockdown.

We have also put on hold the trainee teachers who were coming in to provide additional booster work for some children as part of our Covid Catch-up programme.

We do not feel that when the rest of the nation is being told to lockdown to prevent the spread of infection, we can continue to have too many additional adults from outside our immediate school community, particularly those who are in much closer contact with the children giving bespoke tuition.

As staff, we have added some additional measures to our practices in school that are more restrictive to our way of working so that we can further minimise the risk of infection.

Personally, I have found it upsetting to make these decisions because I have a passion for making our school a place where the children have enriching experiences beyond the classroom and staff have the freedom to be bold, brave and courageous in enabling this to happen. However, I know that the impact of having an individual child or staff member or potentially whole class bubbles isolating, would be far more detrimental to your child's education in the long-term.

Where possible, we will still find ways to bring some additional fun and excitement to the children's schooling which is why I take some comfort in the fact that we will continue with our long-standing, whole class Bartholomew PE teacher coaching, karate and brass lessons, *where the instructors can remain socially distant at the front of the class (and outside for PE)*.

We also have our Romanian Shoe Box appeal on Friday to look forward to. DON'T FORGET!

We will, of course, review these decisions as we get closer to the end of national lockdown.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support, especially with the social distancing and facemask wearing at drop-off and pick-up.

I wish you all well. Stay safe.

Andrew Denham

PS Our COVID Risk Assessment can be found on the website: Parents tab > Newsletters > Response to Lockdown