

8th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your ongoing support to school. The covid agenda still continues despite a national drive to pull this back. Unlike other schools in the area we have managed (just) to keep our school open despite having over 20 staff absent from work due to health issues everyday since Christmas. Thank you for bearing with us during this very difficult period, there will be no doubt that your child will have had lessons covered during this time, this is never ideal. I am hoping as we start to move towards the summer we will be able to see a decline in these issues and regain some normality and stability.

Parental tasks for Easter:

As parents can I ask you to please take a good look at your child's uniform, their shoes and trousers in particular. The children always seem to grow so fast, please use this time over the next two weeks to ensure that your child has some growing room for the term ahead and also has a proper pair of leather shoes - not trainers, thank you. As a rule shoes have a firm sole, where trainers have a spongy sole despite how the shops market them!

In addition to a uniform check, please can you also take a good look at your child's planner. Consider the reward stamps - are they getting plenty? Consider the codes - what are the reasons for this, how can your child modify their behaviour, what are the barriers to their success? Please remember we start every term as a fresh start with a clean slate - the child who wants to be re-born (appropriate for Easter) can do so with our support.

Finally, is your child entering into their planner their homework everyday? The homework timetable for school can be found on the school website and despite what it might look like homework is set on the google classroom and we track it.

Parent's survey:

About six weeks ago we issued a parent's survey via Edulink. Sadly the response was quite low - only 16% of the parent population replied. The main themes for celebration from these parents were: How well the school meets the child's needs; accessibility to electronic devices and the google classroom, attendance information and parent's evenings.

The main areas of concern were:

- 1) Information about homework;
- 2) Information about how your child is doing socially
- 3) Communication with school.

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We always like to reflect on our service to you and consider ways to respond when criticism is levied. In relation to the first point above; please see the paragraph above, in "Tasks for Easter". In relation to the second point; sadly only 50% of parents have attended parents' evening so far this year - this is the main place to be able to talk about your child's social progress. But in addition to this, you can contact school at any point, to arrange a time to talk to your child's form tutor, to their Head of Year or a Pastoral Support worker of safeguarding lead. Please do assume no news is good news and keep an eye out on Facebook for the weekly awards issued to students who are doing really well. In relation to communication, the very best way to contact school is via the hello@asa.hslt.academy email, this is far better than calling or arriving on site. The reason for this is twofold, firstly most staff teach for 22 out of 25 periods each week, their availability during the day is very limited, secondly there is a record of your enquiry. This email account is always empty by the time the admin staff leave at 4:30pm - but it may take 24 hours for a response after this as emails will be forwarded to the relevant party. In addition to this we are now opening up the Edulink "reply" function. So when you receive an Edulink text or email, you will now be able to respond directly from your device. Your replies will go to the Admin team and be treated as per the hello@ account.

Finally, I would like to pass on my very heartfelt thanks to a number of staff who are leaving us at the end of this term; these staff have always gone the extra mile for the school: Mrs Borthwick, Miss Hastings, Mr Hairsine, Mrs D Johnson and Mr Meecham. I know you will join me in offering my thanks for a job very well done and wishing them every happiness in their future endeavours. All staff have been replaced with experienced people for after Easter.

I will leave you with thought for Easter, please rest, enjoy and recharge, one and all:

"Let everything you do be done in love."

— 1 Corinthians 16:14

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Dowds
Executive Principal