

Dear parents and carers,

After lock down and all that Covid has thrown at us over the past months, I am really pleased to be writing this letter with a big smile on my face. It has been a challenging half term with school reopening and all the changes, guidance and rules; moreover, it has been a wonderful half term. Every member of staff has loved coming to school to work with the children. Lock down has really pushed to the forefront how important our Nicol Mere family is.

The term has been used to settle all the children, to learn about keeping safe and to deal with anxiety and worries caused by Covid. Every child has settled remarkably well. School is a happy place, and it is wonderful to see all the classrooms full again with smiley faces. The staff have been assessing all the children and working hard to support the children's learning which may have been affected with the lockdown. I am exceptionally pleased with the progress of all the children.

Thankfully we have not had to close any bubbles or close any part of the school, but this may happen next term (fingers crossed that it does not). However, if there is a need to close, we are fully prepared for this and want all our parents and carers to know our plans in the event of a bubble closing:

- The parents of the children affected will be notified by dojo message (Rec to Year 4). Year 5 and 6 will be contacted by phone.
- All children affected by the bubble closure will be sent home with a pack. This will contain a letter with information, a work book and a pen and pencil.
- The following day, you will receive information about your child's home learning and when it will begin.

We are very well prepared for the eventuality of a bubble closing. All parents and carers have received information about how to access the home learning, and all children have been trained to use it. If anybody struggles with accessing it, then please contact school and we will support you. Reception children's home learning will be through dojo. The rest of the school will be through Google Classroom. If you have any queries whatsoever about accessing work or using Google Classroom, then please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance who will then put you in touch with Miss Leach, our key stage 2 leader, who is overseeing Remote Learning.

Thank you all for your support in following all the rules and guidance when on school ground. Please could all parents continue to follow these rules after half term. Remember to keep a safe two metre distance away from each other and keep children close to you. We also ask that any parents waiting at the gate to pick up the children keep a safe distance away from each other and not block the path or the gate area. We have had suggestions from parents about all parents wearing masks. The LA have advised against making this mandatory at the moment, but is something we are considering. Of course, please wear one if you feel more comfortable in doing so, and we do encourage this.

Communication is very important to us. We want all parents and carers to know that they can contact school to speak about their child whenever they need to. If you are not able to speak to the class teacher on the school site, please phone school and the teachers will be happy to phone back. At the moment, we communicate in several ways: via Facebook, Dojo, website and letters. We are looking at further ways to improve our communication with you, including a text and e-mail service.

When returning after half term, all children will receive a letter about our school becoming 'cashless' and paying via an online money payment system. This will coincide with our online ordering school lunch system.

We continue to be grateful for your support and are proud of how our community is working to handle this worldwide pandemic. As always, if you have any questions then please feel free to contact me at enquires@nicolmere.wigan.sch.uk.

It has been a tough time for everyone since March, but one thing is for sure, how proud I am of every single child and to call myself their head teacher.

Best wishes.

Mrs Swift