



March 2021

Dear Parents

No doubt you will be as delighted as the staff and I are at the news of a full school return on Monday 8th March. We have all felt the frustrations and experienced the challenges of the past few months however, looking forward, be assured that we, as a staff and Governor team, remain fully committed to your children and all that we will achieve in what remains of the school year.

This is about far more than just the academic side of school life as the social, spiritual, mental, physical and creative health of the children are just as much of a priority. Our plans for the March return, explained in the attached document, reflect this and are designed to maximise learning time, provide a greater sense of normality and all while keeping everyone feeling safe in and around school. There is some additional risk involved in the changes therein but based on our health record, the village setting and the huge number of siblings across classes, I believe the benefits are far greater.

Our biggest battle however is about attitude and mindset. As adults we have been bombarded with bad news and worrying statistics by the media and our children will have very easily picked up on this. At Wingrave CE School, we face challenge with positivity, we welcome & learn from mistakes and we do our best in all things. It is imperative that we do not dwell on the negative elements of lockdown and what is now being unfairly referred to as 'gaps', 'catching up' and a 'lost generation' - this worries some children and provides others with excuses.

Every class and school year boasts a huge range of abilities and experiences and therefore our return in March is no different. We are not naïve to the impact the past few months may have had but we will equally not be limited by it and therefore, have the same expectations and determination for the children who will be told, in our usual fashion, 'they can do it and we will all help them'.

It is some time since we had the opportunity to explore our 'Growth Mindset' approach together with you as parents but I hope the themes in our Zoom assemblies (The Learning Pit etc.) have encouraged and supported home learning in the way it was intended. Now, returning to school, the same themes apply to the classroom and we would ask for your support in reinforcing this at home so the children feel ready and empowered to make the most of the learning time ahead.

Finally, thank you for all you have done as parents to support home learning these past few months. Your appreciation and encouragement of the staff has been equally welcome and we look forward to working together as a school community, as things should be, in just a few days.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Tomson

Headteacher

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13