

29.4.22

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed a great Easter Break and managed to enjoy the sunny weather we had. We are delighted to be now really moving forward with areas that have been a little 'on hold' over the last 2 years. This includes more trips and visits to enrich the curriculum, as well as having more opportunities for pupils to get involved in whole school development. You will also be aware that statutory assessments are back in certain year groups, such as Y6 SATs and the new Y4 Multiplication Table Check and we will be sure to help the children through these in the calm and sensible approach we've always taken. More information for those year groups will be in class newsletters, if not already.

Pupil Questionnaire

Empowering pupils to have a say about the school is key and each year pupils take part in a Pupil Questionnaire, which they now complete themselves, electronically, in school. This helps us to see the impact of key areas we've been working on, such as developing our curriculum so that subjects really develop key skills in those areas e.g., learning history as a Historian (looking at and comparing artefacts, for example), not just learning about a time. We have already seen that the number of pupils who feel school provides enough music and sport opportunities has **increased by 10%** from last year- really reflecting the quality PE and Music learning, as well as extra curriculum sports clubs and music tuition which some have signed up to.

We have also seen a positive increase in the number of pupils saying that their teachers understand how they learn more. This reflects the hard work from all staff to really understand the exact impact of lockdowns and absence over the Covid Pandemic and support children with their individual needs, so to enable them to be more confident in their learning. I'm sure you'd join me in thanking staff for their hard work and support to all pupils in what has been a challenging few years for all with their learning.

The largest increase also links to how children feel supported, this time by their classmates. There was an **11% increase in how supported by their classmates, pupils felt**, reflecting the care and kindness pupils feel towards one another, which reflects our Christian Values which we've been focusing on, of Love, Trust, Hope. This, along with the comments made by pupils shows that they have a very real understanding of our Vision 'Together, we take steps towards a brighter future' and understand how individual but worthy every child is. Many children talked in the 'free text' about how our Worship and reflection time to think about these values, really helps them to understand and care for not only themselves and their own feelings but those of others. I was humbled by how many told us the impact that this has on them and their development.

We will as a leadership team, along with wider staff be reflecting upon the findings from the questionnaire and use this information with our future development, but we can't wait to share the full questionnaire with parents, as we are so proud of what children are telling us about our school. We're just finalising the format of the questionnaire and will be sharing this, with parents in the coming weeks.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

House Teams and Pupil Council

This week has seen the exciting appointment of House Captains (including Sports Captains) and School Council Representatives. On Monday, the children met in their House Teams where those Y6 pupils wishing to 'stand for' House Captain, read out their speeches. They were incredibly impressive in both their actual speeches but also the courage to stand in front of many others. Pupils then vote for their chosen captains and these were announced in our whole school Worship on Wednesday. I'm sure the children have will talked to you about this, but we wanted to share with you the House and Sports Captains from Y6:

Yellow House: Sarah & Harry. Sports Captains: Liliath & Kayleb

Red House: Andrew & Lilly. Sports Captains: Isabella & Alex

Blue House: Roxanna & Alfie. Sports Captains: Mackenna and Cody

Green House: Oscar & Sienna. Sports Captains: Faye & Harry



These pupils are now proudly wearing their badges around school!

Before the Easter Break, I shared with you the brilliant number of pupils who have written School Council Application letters. Pupils really showed off their persuasive writing skills, with many outlining their reasons for wishing to be a 'Rep' as well as linking these to our school vision and values. We were blown away by the maturity of these letters and choosing the 'Reps' was beyond tricky! After careful consideration, we were delighted to formally announce the final names this week. The children were delighted to be announced in Worship and be presented by myself, with their badges and are as follows:

EYFS: Eva and Fred Y1: Kellen & Sienna



Y2: Daniela & Sophia Y3: Maddison (we are looking forward to having some applications from boys soon!)

Y4: Rowan & Isaac Y5: Irina & Jack Y6: Saskia and Jack

This week has also seen the move forward with regards to the need for any formal Covid Measures, which we included in the letter before the Easter Break. Here is a reminder of this:

In this letter, I wanted to update parents with how we are moving to 'Living with Covid' as part of the national plans. We have met as a Trust Team, attended UKSHA webinar and read the Government information. This is now about seeing Covid as a Respiratory Illness, so when we return for the Summer Term, we will use these guides:

- Anyone with a high temperature, or who is not well enough to be in school, should stay at home until well.
- You do not need to test children and access to free tests has ended.
- If your child does have a positive test result (if you have LFTs still at home and chose to test), they need to stay at home for 3 days. They do not need to 'test to release' and if they are well and no longer have a high temperature, they can return.
- There is no longer a need for face coverings
- We will continue to exercise good hand hygiene, good respiratory hygiene (with coughs and sneezes and 'catch it, bin it, kill it approach' and ensure rooms are not stuffy, with good ventilation.
- We will no longer be having a staggered start to the day. **Gates will open at 8.30 and parents will drop their children at the same gates they are using now, and we will continue to be out greeting the children. All gates will close at 8.45, ready for registration.**
- **To dismiss children at home time and ensure everyone is safely delivered to their grown-ups, we will have EYFS to Y2 dismissed at 2.50pm with Y3-6 dismissed at 3pm. Again, all children will use the same gates.**

We know the impact that lockdowns and isolation has had and can see the real benefit of these new, national measures.

There are some great short videos on the national approach, should families wish to watch/ see the guidance themselves. [Living with Covid - Next Steps for Education and Childcare Settings Webinar - YouTube](#)

[People with symptoms of a respiratory infection including COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Family Support

A reminder that Mrs Walsh and Mrs Davey are both working within a Family Support Role this term. I know we shared this information before the Easter break but here is a recap:

Many of you will know Mrs Walsh for her work in the admin team, with a particular expertise in attendance and admissions. Mrs Walsh has been part of our team for many years and have a very good understanding of some of the challenges families can face and will be a asset to Family Support. As well as meeting with parents re attendance, Mrs Walsh will especially be supporting families as part of any Team around the Family Meetings.

Mrs Davey, who leads on Nursery administration, has a very in-depth knowledge of the support and opportunities Torbay, for families. She will be her expertise as part of Family Support, with a focus especially on those moving up into EYFS as well as the wider activities and support for families across the Bay.

The Queen's Jubilee

It is not long now until our whole country celebrates The Queen's Jubilee on Sunday 5th of June. The following week is our week of Non- Pupil Days and so we'll be celebrating this historic event before the May Half Term Break. We've started planning all sorts of exciting ways we will make this special occasion, including welcoming parents in! We'll be sharing more information with you in the coming weeks, but I wanted to let you know that we are planning a very special community event! Watch this space!

This coming weekend is a Bank Holiday, and it looks like the sun will give us a great additional day at home to enjoy.

See you all next Tuesday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Semmens

Head of Academy