

Tuesday 20th September 2020

Parents' Evening

Every year, at key points, the Senior Leadership Team (head, deputy and assistant heads) have Pupil Progress Meetings with all teachers, individually, looking at the progress of each and every child in school, trying to ensure the best for them, deciding on future interventions and adjusting classroom provision for them as required. Each of these meetings happens in the wake of a period of formal and informal assessment and building a picture of the whole child. We have been in the thick of these meetings this week. There are strong indicators that, even though none of us would have wanted school closure and lockdown, many children have done well overall and stayed pretty much on target. This says a lot about the strength of our online learning resource as well as children and parents' hard work at home over those weeks (thank you). However, as expected, there are some children who have fallen behind. We will be targeting these children to ensure that they are back on track, with a comprehensive support programme.

We know it has been such a long time since parents had the opportunity to discuss their children's progress. Earlier in the year, I said we would attempt to remedy this by having early parents' evenings this term. However, given the issues and greater logistical difficulties, especially in the midst of a 'second wave', this has been difficult. Also, we wanted to 'get it right' for everyone. Accordingly, we have spent some time sourcing a good 'remote' system that would ensure the best provision. Accordingly, we have invested in a commercial online resource called SchoolCloud. This not only allows for good video conferencing but also enables parents to book online. To fully set this up, ensuring full staff training and information to parents, it will be the 16th of November before our first remote parents' evenings start. More to come!

This parents' evening, more than any other, will be critical. As usual, it will be a time when we can share how your child is performing but, more importantly than ever, discuss how you can help support the plugging of any gaps there might be, from home.

Yours sincerely

Bill Heptinstall