



Dear Parents and Carers,

9th November 2020

Last week we introduced wearing masks at school in communal areas, a measure that I was quite uncertain about but was enforced for this national action 4 week period in the first instance by the Department for Education. I was blown away by the maturity shown by students and how well they have adapted to these requirements. We are adapting together and will continue to do so. The new guidance also means that after school sports and dance clubs are postponed during the 4 weeks. Our teaching unions are currently challenging this and if the guidance changes we will bring back these groups as soon as we can.

This weekend has felt like one of reflection and change. In school on Wednesday we will mark Remembrance day in our classes, and observe a 2 minute silence, reminding ourselves of the importance of this day.

We also have seen the outcome of the US election, and although it isn't my place to offer political views, the groundbreaking appointment of Kamala Harris, the first female, the first asian- american, first african- american to be appointed Vice President of the United States. Her victory speech was incredibly moving and I am sharing a particular part with children this week in my recorded whole school assembly, and wanted to share this with you too.

'Dream with ambition, Lead with conviction,
And see yourselves in a way that others may not - simply because they have never seen it before,
But know that we will applaud you every step of the way'

This message is a powerful one for all of us especially within our school. Our young people are so amazing, but their world is quite small at the moment, and opportunities are not as they have been due to Covid restrictions. We want them to dream and have ambition, to work hard and be kind and be PROUD, and we are very proud of them and we know you are too.

This week we will support BBC Children in Need - Mrs Horne has written under separate cover about this. Please can I emphasise making sure children are wearing clothing that will be warm enough! Our classrooms have windows open and internal doors to have good ventilation and fresh air supply, but it does give a chill at times, even though the heating is on!

As ever please contact us if there is anything at all that you need to raise.

Best wishes

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

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