

Dear Parents

We have made it through another term - and another tricky term at that. This past year has been so surreal and yet somehow we have got through it - though I know we still have one more term to go! It would be lovely to think that the coming term could be more 'normal' but we have to continue to take things slowly and follow the road map that the government has put in place.

One thing I know for sure is that you should all be incredibly proud of your children. They have been beyond amazing in the way that they have adapted, adjusted and moved forward with resilience, kindness and - mostly - a smile on their faces! We count our blessings every day and they are absolutely the reason the staff here at Hammond remain in love with their jobs!

There are a few things I wanted to remind you of. I will remain on 'track and trace' duty until Wednesday 7th April so please use my own email address to inform me of any positive cases (j.halton@croftonhammond-inf.hants.sch.uk) as I may need to advise other parents about the need to isolate. I would also like to remind you that as you have a child of school age you are able to request free 'asymptomatic' tests by ordering online from www.gov.uk. School staff will continue to test twice weekly over the holiday period too.

The staggered start will remain in place - but can we ask that you stick to either the 8.45/8.55am start and 3.15/3.25pm times - we've noticed some children arriving earlier or later than these times and it is eating into valuable teaching time. If your child is doing an early morning intervention you will have been notified of the earlier start time already.

This year we have a very different approach to the assessment of children as it would not be fair to assess children as in previous years. No assessments will be reported to the government or to the LA. Children in year R will be assessed against the Early Learning goals which will only be shared with their next teacher and with parents. These are likely to be lower than previous years due to the lack of time in school - though they will vary. Children in Key Stage 1 will be assessed as to whether they are 'sufficiently' ready to move onto their next year group in reading, writing and maths. There will be a set of statements for each subject and we will assess whether your child has achieved 'sufficiency' or not. These assessments will be shared with you at the end of the academic year.

In our April parents' meetings we will be verbally sharing with you where we think your children are with their learning since their return to full time education. We will send out details about how these meetings will operate nearer to the time - though appointment slots are now online for you to sign up to. We think they will probably need to be done either by telephone or by Zoom but we will make sure that children in years 1 and 2 have the chance to bring their books home to share with you.

I apologise for such a long email! I think it represents the state of my 'head' at the moment! However, I want to thank you all, as always, for your unwavering support and love this past year. I'm sure like me, you will all be excited to visit the hairdressers before long - I am looking forward to losing the Dolly Parton look I seem to have acquired! I am also looking forward to seeing my parents in their Kent garden on their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on Easter Sunday and setting eyes on my lovely son for the first time in some months. Won't we all appreciate our loved ones just that little bit more from now on?

Have a restful and joyful Easter,
With love from
Jacky