

Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope that you had an enjoyable half term break.

Since we were last in school, there have been changes made to Covid19 regulations. Following the government's announcement that there is no longer any legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive for Covid, I am writing to clarify the position of the school, influenced by 'Living with Covid19' Government Guidance 23/2/22

We would still ask that any child who tests positive for Covid does self-isolate for 5 days and only return to school after two negative tests; in other words retaining the same approach as before half term

I will be making the same request of the staff. This approach may only be for this next half term, but it seems sensible to continue to try to restrict the spread of Covid in school. It may be that by Easter we can see that everything has remained at a settled level, allowing us to review our position.

We will be welcoming back families to sharing in both schools, Sand Hutton 4<sup>th</sup> March and Warthill 11<sup>th</sup> March. In the spirit of further plans for gathering together, Mrs Naylor and I are planning a music concert one evening, to be confirmed, in the week before Easter. This will give our musical groups the chance to perform and also children who have instrumental lessons in or out of school. If your child would like to play, please could they speak to one of us, with their contribution by next Friday. There are still spaces in the choir on Mondays after school.

Catherine Harrison and I wish to convey our thanks to everyone for the very successful Bake Sale which took place before the holiday which raised money for our sponsored child, Sandesh. We have cards ready to post to him and a further 100 pounds in our pot of money. This is so generous and will make an enormous difference to his life and that of his family and community. Thank you all!

While on the subject of people in difficult circumstances, I wanted to share the decisions we have made regarding the Ukraine situation. As a staff we decided to handle it on a pupil by pupil basis, answering questions sensitively as they arise in an age appropriate way. We felt that this was something you would wish to decide how to handle in your own homes and therefore decided against any assembly or class approach to conversations, which I know other schools have taken. We are aware that children have spoken a little of the crisis and we are monitoring this carefully. As the conflict continues, we may look at ways we can support those in difficulty rather than to look at the conflict per se. Should you want to discuss this difficult subject with your children, I did see this online and thought that it may be useful to share, as a starting point.

I was in Morrisons doing some shopping today when M\*\*\* called me. She was out with her friends and said "Mum, one of the boys said Russia is about to enter the UK and start fighting us, so we're really scared".

Well, I'm not sure what anyone around me shopping thought about my explanation to a bunch of 11 year olds about Russia and Ukraine, but it went something like.....

After the last BIG playground fight (WW2), lots of popular kids (WORLD LEADERS) got together and made a new team (NATO), and all the kids in the team made a pinky promise (TREATY) to be nice and respectful and not fight each other anymore.

This means not going into each other's part of the playground (COUNTRY) without permission, and not throwing sticks or stones (HEAVY ARTILLERY) at each other, and the UK

is part of that team.

But then a new kid (UKRAINE) joined the playground, and a bigger kid (RUSSIA) started picking on the new kid, all because he is greedy and bossy and wanted the new kid's playground space for himself, even though he has one of the biggest spaces in the playground.

Sadly, the new kid is not part of the team because the big boy didn't want the new kid to join the team. We would be breaking our pinky promise if any of the team help the new kid fight the 'big boy'.

We have all told the big boy off, and stuck up for the new kid by hiding his pocket money until the big boy stops hurting the new kid (SANCTIONS) and this will hopefully stop the big boy from buying more sticks and stones. We have also given the new kid lots of our own sticks and stones to fight the big boy, because this is not breaking the pinky promise!

Even though it is really, really sad, all we can do now is stand on the edge of the playground and watch and give moral support to the new kid, because we are not allowed to fight the big boy for them, not without breaking the pinky promise.

BUT... if the big boy breaks the pinky promise and comes into our part of the playground (UK) without permission and throws a stick or stone at us, then the whole of the team (NATO) will come and help us

Now don't worry anymore sweetheart, just go and play nicely together in the sunshine and don't get up to any trouble. 😊😊.

It isn't perfect and may lead to further questions, but it's there in the absence of any other suggestion. The age of your child may influence your approach.

Finally, this week we are celebrating World Book Day in both our schools. Story Jars have been the order of the day. I am looking forward to seeing these and sharing photos with you.

Sending you every best wish,

*Beverley Pawson*

Headteacher

Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated Schools