

Dear Families,

## **Welcome back!**

I hope you have had a fabulous Christmas and New Year. On behalf of myself and all the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous gifts.

We are very relieved to be opening for the Spring Term. We are of course also very aware of the high numbers of Covid19 cases in the community and the associated challenges ahead. For this reason we have taken the decision not to mix the two schools for the time being and keep the Sand Hutton pupils in class groups, as per the arrangement just before we broke for the Christmas holidays. We hope that this will be a short-lived intervention.

The symptoms of the current variant appear to be even more cold than previous ones and therefore making it difficult to distinguish between the two conditions. For most this variant will be no more than an inconvenience with a newly shortened isolation period. However, we do have vulnerable members of staff and therefore ask you to be as vigilant as ever especially if you are a 'positive household'. While cases seem inevitable, I am anxious that it doesn't affect anyone adversely in our school communities. Of course we know that continued restrictions/interventions prevent us from operating the federation the way we would like. However, up to now these have proved to be successful in limiting the impact of Covid19 on our children and their learning opportunities. I will inform you about decisions regarding Friday sharing in due course.

You will also be receiving a letter, homework grid and spellings from your child's class teacher in the next few days, giving you additional information on what they will be learning and how you could support them at home. This is a return to our pre-Covid approach and not because we are using home learning as part of a catch-up programme. Our home learning approach is designed to give children a love of learning and some degree of independence. However, we know many of you enjoy working alongside your children on these tasks.

If you have any need to discuss anything with me, I am available at any point through the day on the telephone.

Happy New Year to you all,

Looking forward to seeing you through the next couple of weeks.

Best wishes,

*Beverley Pawson*

Headteacher

Sand Hutton and Warthill Federated Schools