



The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are safe and well.

At the end of our first full week back in school, I think it is safe to say that we are all feeling a little tired! There have been so many new systems and routines for all of us to get used to after such a long time at home, for some children more than others. Thank you for your positive comments, your constructive suggestions and your cooperation – we very much appreciate your continued support.

This week, we have focused on the 'new normal' in school, working with your children to ensure that they understand all of the measures that are in place to keep them safe - one way systems, playtime and lunchtime zones for their classes, classroom seating arrangements and, of course, regular handwashing.

As always, teachers have been working hard to build relationships with the children and to enable them to feel safe, secure, and happy in their new classroom environment.

We are continuing to use the work of Barry Carpenter CBE, Professor of Mental Health in Education at Oxford Brookes University, to inform our work with your children. He talks about ensuring that we give children time and space to recover from the unexpected changes and challenges they may have faced during school closure and to adjust to being back in school. This includes reminding them of all of the good learning behaviours that will make them effective and successful learners, both in school and at home.

At about this time, we would usually be planning to invite you into school to meet your children's teachers and teaching assistants in our Learning Meetings. As parents are not currently permitted to enter the school site, we are working on a way of making these meetings happen in a different way. More information on this will follow.

As we become used to being back at school, it is important to remember that every one of us is responsible for keeping our community as safe as we possibly can. Please can we remind you that, **if your child or anyone in your household becomes unwell with a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of,**



or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell, you or any member of your household must not come to the school. You should stay at home, arrange for a Coronavirus test as soon as you can and follow the advice of any medical professionals. Please contact the school by telephone to report your child's absence from school.

Please also remember, that you and your children will need to self-isolate if you visited or made a transit stop in a country or territory that is *not* on the travel corridor list in the 14 days before you arrive in England. This applies to all travel to England, by train, ferry, coach, air or any other route. You and your children will need to isolate for a period of 14 days if this is the case. Please follow the link below to see the current travel corridor list.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors>

Many thanks for your continued support as we work in partnership during this new term in school.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Katrina Walsh
Head of School

