



The Eliot Bank and Gordonbrock Schools Federation



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12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach half term in this lockdown period, it is so important to reflect on how hard we have all worked to keep life as 'normal' as possible for Eliot Bank children. In school, we have continued to welcome upwards of 60 critical worker and vulnerable children each day and Google Classroom is fully in place for children working at home. Senior Leaders, our SENDCO and Learning Mentor and our Class Teachers continue to maintain regular telephone contact with you all and we are looking forward to meeting with you virtually, for the first time, on Parents Evenings.

We know that you are continuing to work incredibly hard at home, balancing the support you are giving your children with remote learning, and many, many other commitments. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise your hard work and to congratulate you for your huge efforts during this period. We know it may not always feel like it, but you really are doing a great job!

Remote Learning

This term, our Remote Learning offer has continued to evolve, with Google Classroom offering our children 'as live' morning briefings and pre-recorded lessons, a class comments feature and written and verbal feedback, all from the class teachers. We were required by the Department for Education to publish our offer on our website in January. You can find it on our home page, along with support for using Google Classroom.

Your feedback on the offer has been overwhelmingly positive, particularly recognising how well it has developed since March 2020. Thank you for this. It is reassuring to hear that you recognise the strengths, as our offer is firmly rooted in what the best educational research, such as that of the Educational Endowment Fund, tells us about the most effective way to approach remote learning – which is that teaching *quality* is more important than how lessons are delivered.

In light of such research and feedback, we are continually evaluating our offer and making adjustments to provide the best possible remote education to our children. Most recently, we have been exploring ways to provide pupils with an additional opportunity to interact with the class teacher, and each other, in a live format and we have trialled live teacher/class feedback sessions with Year Six this week. Early feedback is that these sessions have been a huge success. We will be evaluating



the trial and then we will update you early next term on how this might work in other year groups.

Parents' Evening

This term, parents' evening will take the form of face to face, virtual meetings via Zoom. You will have received more information about this earlier today. Please rest assured, if you do not have access to Zoom, we will make arrangements for you to receive a phone call from the class teacher instead.

Wider Opening of School

The wider opening of schools remains a subject of much speculation, not least in the media. The latest DfE guidance for schools, Restricting attendance during the national lockdown: schools, February 2021 states that, 'Additional pupils and students will...return to on-site education on 8 March 2021 at the earliest.'

We have no update on this position at the moment and we await further guidance.

As soon as guidance is available, we will act swiftly and update you on any plans for wider opening as soon as we are able to.

In the meantime, we are fully committed to the continued development of our remote learning offer and to the on-site provision for the families in our community who most need it.

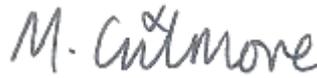
As always, please do not hesitate to contact the school at info@eliotbank.lewisham.sch.uk if you need any support or help from us.

Our very best wishes for a restful half term break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Katrina Walsh
Head of School



Maria Gilmore
Executive Headteacher

