

PROPELLER ACADEMY TRUST  
Fitzwaryn

*'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'*

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Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 3 and what a different Term it has started out to be in comparison to the one we were expecting!

Thank you all for your patience and understanding while we worked out the plan for our pupils, families and staff.

The aim of this newsletter is to update you as far as possible on how things have been since Monday evening for us at school and set out our plans for the next few weeks.

As you are aware, things can change rapidly, and we are doing our very best to respond to these changes as quickly as we can taking everything into consideration. The Senior Leadership Team are keeping an ear to the ground locally, countywide, and nationally to ensure we are covering all bases.

As always, the staff team have been incredibly accommodating and creative in their response as well as juggling their own family situations following the announcement.

On behalf of the staff, thank you so very much for your generous gifts and words of thanks that came in before the holidays. I hope that you were able to enjoy the festive season.

Mrs Tracy Gardiner and Mr Chris Slatter have taken up the role of Deputy Headteachers from the start of this term. They jointly took the lead on the INSET day on Monday when we considered how to improve our curriculum offer linked to the school's vision; as always, the staff team were fully engaged keeping the pupils and the Fitzwaryn community at the heart of their discussions. Follow up work will be completed in due course.



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### **School Places for Term 3**

It is wonderful to see some children back in school. Please do let us know if you fall into the Critical Worker category – please note, the criteria have changed since the lockdown ‘Essential Worker’ information was produced last year, it now includes a wider range of job roles.

I know that some of you have chosen to keep your child at home for now and some children are shielding. Please send the current shielding letter into school. During your weekly catch up calls with your child’s class teacher, please discuss your individual situations and whether arrangements regarding a school place need to change for you and your child. Please be mindful that transport takes a while to set up so the earlier the request the better!

### **Remote Learning**

We have had a Remote Learning Plan in place for a while, you can find this on the website:

<https://www.fitzwaryn.oxon.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=563&type=pdf>

As we have pupils in school in addition to those at home, teachers will tailor teaching and learning for all children according to the individual circumstances in each class. Liaison with you at home is key to the success of the programme; teachers will be in touch with you on a regular basis. For those pupils who are working towards accreditation, it is essential that work is completed at home to meet the deadlines for the awards. Information will be on the website as previously at the beginning of next week.

For your information, the following is from the current DfE guidance for opening of schools regarding remote learning for pupils with Special Educational Needs:

*For pupils with SEND, their teachers are best-placed to know how the pupil’s needs can be most effectively met to ensure they continue to make progress even if they are not able to be in school due to self-isolating. The requirement for schools to use their best endeavours to secure the special educational provision called for by the pupils’ special educational needs remains in place.*

*Schools should work collaboratively with families, putting in place reasonable adjustments as necessary, so that pupils with SEND can successfully access remote education alongside their peers.*

*Where a pupil has provision specified within their EHC plan, it remains the duty of the local authority and any health bodies to secure or arrange the delivery of this in the setting that the plan names. However, there may be times when it becomes very difficult to do so, for example, if they are self-isolating. In this situation, decisions on how provision can be delivered should be informed by relevant considerations including, for example, the types of services that the pupil can access remotely, for example, online teaching and remote sessions with different types of therapists. These decisions should be considered on a case-by-case basis, avoiding a one size fits all approach.*

During regular communication with you, either by phone or on Zoom calls and if it is appropriate to do so, teachers will ask if they can say hello or speak to your child as it is essential that we keep in touch.

Should your child need any equipment, including IT to complete the work at home, please let us know and we will do our very best to support.

### **Term 3 curriculum delivery**

Teaching staff have spent a significant amount of their holidays preparing for the term ahead and all plans were in place for face to face teaching. We have therefore agreed that these plans will be the basis for all learning this term and you will get all the information in due course. Bubbles have been organised to give teachers flexibility. Once groups and staffing settle down, we will make sure you have all the relevant information. For now, your child's class teacher is your first port of call.

IEPs are written each term linked to the outcomes in your child's EHCP. As with the curriculum planning, these have already been written and will be sent out to you regardless of whether your child is at home or at school. Your child's teacher will discuss with you the best way of achieving the targets this term.

### **Risk Assessment**

As routine and especially following the Government's announcement on Monday, I have revised the COVID Risk Assessment. This now includes staff wearing face masks and coverings in the corridors when moving around school. Children in school are in small groups and as our corridors are wide, there is little movement around school and there is no mixing between bubbles, this is a precautionary measure taken due to the rise in the rate of the new COVID variant.

We have also commenced staff testing using the lateral flow tests that have been provided to school. School staff can choose to take a test twice a week. We are still working on the plan for testing secondary aged children in school as this is much more of a complex situation. I will of course keep you posted.

### **Free School Meals**

Last year, there was a government scheme set up to facilitate the ordering and distribution of FSM vouchers which proved to be very admin heavy. We have had no direction so far as to whether this will be reinstated for schools. However, we have begun the process of ordering and distributing the relevant vouchers. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

As always, please let school know if there is anything we can be of assistance with and we will do our very best to support you and your child.

With best wishes

Stephanie Coneboy  
Headteacher