

8th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer's

AS we reach the end of our spring term I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation once again to every one of you. This has been an incredibly challenging term in all schools with staff absence and very little access to supply agencies. As parents you have kept us going with your positive feedback and friendly smiles on the gate. Children have worked hard to 'catch up' on missed learning over the last 2 years as well as from the many absences from COVID isolations! It really is a testament to you as parents that our wonderful children have shown such resilience in the face of challenging times. This term we have seen the re-emergence of school trips and what a delight that has been. Yesterday Courtney class went to Buckfast Abbey for the day and after Easter our Year 4 children join Dunsford Academy Year 4 children on a residential to PGL in Torquay. KS1 children will also be off to the Zoo in the summer term and Templar and Courtenay class will be enjoying rock climbing and Templar a trade experience day. See the Academy website for dates of all events and the weekly newsletters.

Children and staff have really missed these wider curriculum opportunities over the last 2 years and the impact of those experiences on all areas of the curriculum.

We have also introduced Forest School Fridays to ASM. Not an easy task in our concrete playground! Mrs Webber has spent a long time researching how this can be done and we have been lucky to source a Forest School Lead who is bringing the wonder of nature and the forest to us. All children will experience Forest School Fridays before the end of the school year and Mrs Webber and Miss Rippon are completing the Forest school qualification so that this experience can become part of every week at ASM as we move forward.

As we move into a more 'normal' post COVID existence it is important that we continue to keep us all safe whilst always prioritising the education of our children. We know that the impact on children's mental health and learning across the country has been huge and that as schools and teachers we must ensure we do all we can to minimise this. I have included an information sheet detailing our response to the new guidance on testing and isolation with this email.

One of things that we can all do to support the children in their learning and their mental health is to encourage 'reading for pleasure'. Reading a wide range of texts helps children to develop vocabulary, inspiration for writing, develop sentence structure and allows them to learn new information and to lose themselves in stories and adventures. As parents we encourage you to read to your children often and to introduce them to lots of different types of stories and books. At school our teachers read to our children everyday, and



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

children engage in DEAR time (drop everything and read time) each day too. We have just spent £2000 on a book order to ensure our new library (when it arrives) is full of the best quality texts for all age groups.

Here is a little preview of our library design. WE are very excited about this and will be holding a 'Grand Opening Ceremony' after the May half term.



Finally, I wish you a wonderful and safe Easter break and we all look forward to seeing you in the summer term on Monday 25th April.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs L Secker

Head of Academy