



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your support in working with us to have such a smooth return to school. It has been a real joy to have all the children back at school, filling the classrooms with excited chatter and learning. We have really missed them and it is great to have the life and vibrancy back in the school. I would like to publically thank all the staff who have worked so tirelessly through these difficult times, adjusting as you have to remote learning and then back again to classroom teaching, with all our other departments working at full pelt alongside them, especially our Office, Support, Midday, Site and Kitchen staff. Well done Team Hamstel, I am very proud to lead and be part of such a dedicated group!

When we return after the Easter break we are looking forward to continue our learning journey and hope to be able to move towards greater integration. We will be sending you communications regarding virtual meet the teacher evenings to update you on your child's reintegration back to school and our targets for them. We are saddened that we will not be able to reinstate the Open House for the time being but the teachers will be posting work the children have done once a week on Seesaw for you to continue to have a glimpse into your child's learning. Seesaw was used during the lockdown as a means for individual comment and communication with the class teacher, this will not be able to continue in this form as the teaching staff have resumed all teaching responsibilities within the classroom now. Please direct all communications either at the door if quick or send an email to school via the office at [office@hamstel-inf.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@hamstel-inf.southend.sch.uk) and the office can forward the intended recipient.

Unfortunately swimming has had to be postponed once again as there are problems with the pool which need to be resolved, I will keep you updated on this.

As a special act of kindness, Pabulum our catering provider has made an Easter Bunny cookie for each child. These bunnies will be decorated by your child and will be sent home this Friday. Our thanks go to Pabulum who continue to provide nutritious and fresh produce each day for the children, and staff. I have also been able to secure a comic for each child from a publisher for free as a little extra this holiday. We are a 'Reading for Pleasure' school and to support this each child will also be bringing home two books to keep. These books are World Book Day books and therefore we are hoping the children may not have seen them before and so will add to their little libraries at home. These books may not be suitable for your child to read but will be suitable for them to be read to your child. We hope you will have fun in sharing them.

This leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Easter. This is hard for me to ask, but please remember to stick to the local restrictions regarding social distancing, we have done so well in keeping our community safe, we need to continue to do so. The staff are all required to continue to test twice a week throughout the holiday and I would encourage you to test your child before they return to school. As with other school closures please keep us informed via email to the office if your home circumstances change or if you have any positive test results as we are required to continue our tracking of infection locally.

Have fun and stay safe.

Lisa Clark

